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ARAB TIMES

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Kuwait forms squad to combat hijackers

KUWAIT, stung by the hijacking of one of its jumbo jets by Shiite extremists, is to hire foreign experts to train a special anti-terrorist squad to combat sky pirates, security officials disclosed yesterday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the planned 100-strong force will be attached to the Interior Ministry after a six-month training programme in Kuwait and abroad.

They gave no other details and did not identify the foreign specialists.

Most Western European countries, including Britain, France, Italy and West Germany, have elite units who have been in action against terrorists over the last 20 years.

Al Seyassah daily reported yesterday that Kuwaiti security authorities, aided by unidentified foreign intelligence agencies, have identified the hijackers. It did not elaborate.

A wife can kick out her husband

CAIRO, April 25, (UPI): A Cairo court has ruled a wife may kick her husband out if she owns her home and holds the lease, a local press report said.

The cassation court said under Islamic law the responsibility of providing the home rests with the man, the newspaper Al Akhbar reported in today's editions.

The court, one of Egypt's highest, ruled a man is obligated to buy or rent living quarters which he should furnish for his wife. If the wife does so, then she is doing it "out of tolerance and not because of any prior obligation," the court said.

In this case, the court said the wife has the right to kick her husband out or bar him from the home.

Response

The court issued the ruling in response to a lawsuit filed by an unidentified woman who barred her husband from their apartment on the grounds she held the lease for it and owned the furniture.

A lower court ruled in the man's favour, arguing the marriage bond gave him the right of access to the apartment. The cassation court ruling reversed the lower court decision.

Many apartments in Egypt remain vacant because they are too expensive for most citizens, who face a lack of affordable housing.

Forgive and forget policy abandoned: Sheikh Saad No ransom paid for hostages: Premier



HH the Crown Prince talking with the editors-in-chief of local dailies.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, has denied that a deal was struck with the air pirates or a ransom was paid to secure the release of the passengers aboard the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, Al Jaberiya.

The Crown Prince called on all citizens to be cautious of those spreading such rumours.

In a meeting with Kuna's board chairman and editors-in-chief of local dailies at Al Shaab Palace on Sunday night, Sheikh Saad praised the PLO chairman for his efforts to free the hostages while in Larnaca, Cyprus and also the efforts exerted by the Algerian and the Cypriot authorities.

Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Haimad also attended the meeting.

Urged

The Premier recalled that while the hijacked plane was in Masbhad, Kuwait urged the Iranian authorities to keep the aircraft grounded until all passengers were freed. He refuted an Iranian statement saying that Iran proposed to Kuwait to storm the plane.

"This is incorrect and contradicts with truth and reality,"

said Sheikh Saad.

He noted that despite threats by the hijackers to kill all on board the plane if their demands were not met, Kuwait kept saying "no" to any kind of bargain or deal "no matter what the consequences."

He said: "Kuwait has proved to the whole world that it will not budge an inch from its principles."

"I always told you that the strength of the Kuwaiti people lies in the unity of the home front, and all said in one voice: 'We refuse to bow and we reject blackmail.'"

Replying to a question on Kuwait's stand on the rumours claiming that a deal was struck between the government and the

hijackers, Sheikh Saad stressed:

"We don't work in the dark. We have worked and will work for the interest of Kuwait and its people."

On the formation of a committee to find the loopholes in security measures which led to the hijacking, Sheikh Saad said the cabinet has already decided to form a special committee under the chairmanship of Justice Minister Dbari Al Othman.

Freedom

"The committee will have complete freedom and all the time it needs to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident," Sheikh Saad said, affirming that if any deliberate negligence was discovered, those

responsible will "pay the price."

He noted that Kuwait has started implementing plans to train Kuwaiti youth in anti-terrorist techniques. He urged all Arabs to join hands in combatting terrorism.

The Crown Prince said that the government's "forgive and forget" policy is no longer valid, vowing that those who intend to infringe on the country's security will pay a dear price.

Asked if the lack of security on the hijacked plane was due to a dispute between the Ministries of Finance and Interior, he said: "We all have to wait for the report by the investigating committee."

Sheikh Saad was asked whether he thinks the Israeli intelligence, Mossad, had a role

in the hijack. Sheikh Saad said there was no information available yet of Mossad's involvement, but added: "It will not appear strange if Mossad had a hand in the incident."

On the freedom of reporting about the hijacking the Crown Prince affirmed that the press is allowed to publish anything as long as it does not damage ties between Kuwait and Arab and friendly countries.

He said the arrest and trial of the hijackers will require intensive efforts and cooperation among the countries in the world.

The Premier expressed happiness over Iraq's liberation of the Faw peninsula and hoped Iraq will accept the UN resolution 598 to end the Gulf war.

Arafat meets Assad to heal 5-year-old rift

DAMASCUS, April 25, (Agencies): PLO chief Yasser Arafat, his leadership beset by the assassination of his deputy, met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, presidential spokesman Jibril Knurieh said.

The meeting, only the second time the two key Arab leaders have come face-to-face since 1983, came amid efforts to end a bloody five-year-old feud that has bedevilled the Arab world.

Knurieh said the meeting began at 5 pm (1400 GMT) at Assad's palace.

The PLO leader was accompanied by Farouk Kaddoumi, who also heads the PLO's political department and Arafat's No. 2, Salah Khalaf, the spokesman said.

Five other members of the central committee of Fatah, the PLO's main component, also attended: Hani Al Hassan, Rafiq Al Natsbeh, Hayel Abdul Hamid, Salim Al Zaanoun and Mohammed Rafeb Ghannim, Knurieh noted.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharran accompanied Assad, the spokesman added.

Arafat earlier met with his top aides to prepare for the crucial session with Assad.

George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said after the meeting of the PLO executives: "We discussed the central issues which Arafat is going to raise with Syrian President."

Chance

Habash said the Palestinian leadership was determined "to invest this opportunity" to reconcile Arafat with members of the rebel faction "because it is a rare chance to back the uprising in the (Israeli-occupied) territories and resume relations between the PLO and Syria."

A meeting between Arafat and the Palestine National Salvation Front is possible, Habash said, referring to the Syrian-backed hardline coalition of six Palestinian factions formed in 1985 to oppose Arafat's policies.

Role

Palestinian officials described Arafat's return to Syria, as the opening of a new chapter in relations between Syria and the PLO which he heads.

Assad today met Colonel Mustafa Al Kharoubi, a member of Libya's Revolutionary Council who accompanied Arafat aboard the private Libyan jet from Tripoli yesterday after a

PLO-Libyan reconciliation last week.

Arab diplomats said Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid played a major role in paving the way for PLO-Syria reconciliation.

A powerful delegation of Arafat's PLO mainstream Fatah group held successful talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam to prepare for the Arafat-Assad meeting.

Palestinian officials said all anti-Arafat groups except Abu Musa's, held talks with the PLO leader's Fatah delegation.

A firm PLO-Syria rapprochement could lead to a merger of the majority of PLO factions, they said.

Khaddam stressed the need for PLO unity when he met representatives of the Damascus-based National Salvation Front grouping five hardline Palestinian organisations previously opposed to Arafat, they added.

The Syrian move to normalise relations with Arafat was based on a clear rejection of US Middle East peace moves, a Syrian official said.

Rights

"We support everyone who is opposed to accords which do not recognise the legitimate rights of the Arab people," he said. Palestinians should accept nothing less than this, he added.

"We feel that at this particular time all efforts should be directed to support the Palestinian uprising (in the Israeli-occupied territories) with all possible means and to dispense with formalities," he said.

Palestinian sources said Syria wanted the PLO to take a clear stand against the 1978 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt, but would not insist on it breaking ties with Cairo.

Immediately after he arrived in the Syrian capital, Arafat visited the grave of his slain deputy Khalil Al Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, killed by gunmen who burst into his seaside villa on April 16.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, today welcomed the new development in the Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Sheikh Sabah said: "We are deeply delighted by this rapprochement between the brothers in Syria and the PLO. 'This step will provide the basis for establishing fraternal, good and normal relations among brothers.'"

Threats will not change US policy

WASHINGTON, April 25, (Agencies): The White House said yesterday US policy would not be affected by "terrorist threats" to kill American hostages in Lebanon.

A White House spokesman said he was aware of press reports from Lebanon that the captors of two American hostages had threatened to kill them if there were any more US attacks on Iran in the Gulf.

While not confirming that the White House had been officially informed of the threats, the spokesman, Rnman Popadiuk, said in a prepared statement read over the telephone.

Safety

"We hold the kidnappers responsible for the safety of all the hostages. We call for the prompt and safe release of all the hostages and our policy will not be affected by terrorist threats."

The latest threat was delivered by the pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) to an international news organisation in Beirut.

It came a day after US officials said the Reagan administration might expand protection to the Gulf to neutral ships not flying the American flag, and less than a week after the US Navy sank or disabled six Iranian war vessels.

"The American attacks in the Gulf will not pass without punishment," said the statement.

"If the Iraqi regime persists with the war of the cities we will strike back."

During his visit Velayati met with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharran. Sana said the talks focussed on the "situation in the Gulf in the wake of the American aggressions, the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, and other issues of mutual interest."

He also warned Kuwait. Iran has fired long-range missiles into Kuwait and Iranian gunboats last month hit a military post on Kuwait's Bubiyan island, wounding two soldiers.

Velayati handed Assad a letter from Iranian President Ali Khamenei during the two-hour meeting. But he would not elaborate on its contents. Later he returned to Tehran.

Chirac to meet President in final round Mitterrand advances bid for second term

PARIS, April 25, (UPI): Socialist President Francois Mitterrand and Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac won a final round stand-off in May 8 French presidential elections but far-right candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen made a significant surge to the first round.

Results issued by the Interior Ministry today with 98 per cent of returns counted gave 71-year-old Mitterrand 33.90 per cent of the vote in yesterday's first round balloting, followed by Chirac, 55, who had 19.74 per cent.

Former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, 64, placed third with 16.49 per cent, followed by National Front leader Le Pen, 59, who garnered a surprisingly high 14.61 per cent. Le Pen's score was more than twice that of official Communist candidate Andre Lajoinie, who notched up only 6.86 per cent for one of the Marxist Party's worst showings in its history.

Indicated

The votes from overseas territories will be counted today. Mitterrand remained the favourite to win the May 8 final round. Barre pledged to support Chirac but indicated he would not tolerate any deal-making between the Prime Minister and Le Pen. Still, analysts said the outcome gave Le Pen a new

influence in French politics.

"What matters for the right is to defeat Mitterrand in the second round," the conservative Le Figaro newspaper said today.

"That depends, in part, on Le Pen's electorate, but also on Le Pen himself."

State-run Antenne 2 television, analysing projections in the light of an exit poll of voters' second-round intentions, said Mitterrand stood to win another seven-year term with a 54 per cent majority.

Mitterrand asked for the support of those who backed other candidates in the first round but shared his belief in "the values of democracy: progress, social justice, equality of opportunity, and respect for others."

Promised

Twenty minutes after polling ended, Barre renounced his bid for the presidency and promised his wholehearted support for Chirac in the Conservative candidate's effort to unseat Mitterrand.

Mitterrand, fighting his fourth presidential campaign since 1965, is backed by his Socialist Party, Chirac, a neo-Gaullist, is the leader of the rightist Rally for the Republic (RPR) party. Barre had the support of the Union for French Democracy, a centre-right coalition.



Mitterrand casts his vote.

Barre has called for France to remain an "open and tolerant society which rejects xenophobia and racism." Chirac also urged a "more just, more generous" society but announced that he intended to "preserve the national identity" by fighting illegal immigration.

Le Pen described the outcome as "a political earthquake and a radical transformation of the landscape" that would increase the importance of his supporters.

Death toll rises

BEIRUT, April 25, (Reuters): The death toll from a car bomb in the north Lebanese port of Tripoli rose to at least 60 as the Syrian-held town observed a strike today to mourn its dead.

Expanded US protection in the Gulf favoured

A KUWAITI oil official has said he favoured a plan being debated in Washington to extend US naval protection in the Gulf to any neutral vessel under attack.

Saad Matouq, fleet manager (west) at the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), said this would help to deter raids on Gulf shipping stemming from the Iran-Iraq war.

Protection

"There are a lot of ships in the area without any protection... if some sort of Navy will protect them then definitely this will give a chance for everyone to resume (safe) passage," he said.

KOTC put half its 22-tanker fleet under the American flag last year to obtain US protection from Iranian attacks.

US warships in the Gulf now have orders to defend only ships

trying to use the US flag out defence officials in Washington said President Reagan was considering widening their role to include any neutral vessel under attack.

Fifty merchant ships have been attacked by Iran or Iraq this year in an extension of their 7-1/2-year-old ground war.

Matouq said the discovery of a new minefield east of Bahrain, which Washington says was laid by Iran, did not pose a direct threat to ships because its location was known. "Shippers just have to avoid the area by a new route."

He also said KOTC would put a new oil products tanker, Al Kuwaitiya, into service in mid-May. It is the first of six new tankers commissioned from a South Korean shipyard, all of which Matouq said would fly the Kuwaiti flag.

Iran vows to retaliate

DAMASCUS, April 25, (Agencies): Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati says his country will retaliate for any future move by the US fleet in the Gulf, the state-run Syrian news agency Sana reported yesterday.

"Iran will not stay idle... We will retaliate against any American move... Iran has the power to defend itself," Velayati told a news conference late yesterday at the end of a two-day visit to Damascus.

He rebutted what he called "US allegations" that Iran was planting mines in the Gulf waters.

Situation

"These allegations are mere pretexts to justify the American intervention in the Gulf and designed to give support to the Iraqi regime," Velayati said.

He said Iran does not advocate missile strikes at cities in the 7-1/2-year-old Gulf war but warned

Reagan's message

US President Reagan has sent a message to HH the Amir of Kuwait on the present situation in the Gulf region. The message was yesterday handed over to the Amir by the American ambassador to Kuwait W. Nathaniel Howell.

Curfew clamped on West Bank town

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 25, (AP): Soldiers clamped a curfew on a Palestinian town in the occupied territories today while police kept a watchful eye on a row of Arab-owned shops in Jerusalem in an attempt to break a strike orchestrated by underground PLO leaders.

Elsewhere in the disputed territories, troops lifted curfew restrictions from two refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, permitting thousands of Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel.

The Army said the eased restrictions followed a two-day lull in a 19-week-old uprising against Israeli occupation in which 173 Palestinians and two Israelis have died, according to UN figures.

Troops, however, imposed a nighttime curfew in the northern West Bank town of Kalkilya after disturbances yesterday in which there were no injuries, a military spokesman said.

Rebellion

In the main cities of Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem, most merchants kept their doors shut in keeping with a five-month-long morning commercial strike which has been part of the rebellion against 21 years of Israeli rule.

In Jerusalem, dozens of police braced to break the strike by staging a symbolic show of force outside 25 grocery and hardware shops and bakeries, after their owners defied military orders to open their doors yesterday.

Israeli radio stations said the police would prevent the shopkeepers from opening in the afternoon, which is when the PLO permits them to open.

In a related development, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party has hardened its elections platform by promising voters a final say over any Middle East peace settlement.

The change which was part of a document released today was seen as a way of wooing voters away from the right-wing Likud bloc headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Compromise

Labour has in the past called for a territorial compromise with Jordan while the Likud objects to conceding any of the occupied lands.

Figures released by the Defence Ministry indicated the Army has spent at least \$162 million on quelling the 19-week-old Arab uprising.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday told the cabinet that 1,700 Palestinians, more than one-third of the 4,900 arrested since Dec 9, were being held without trial for up to six months.

Rabin also said the Justice Ministry was hampering Army efforts to deport more Palestinian agitators, Israel media said. Since Dec 9, Israel has deported 20 Palestinians to Lebanon and ordered at least four others expelled.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- کوئی سودا نہیں ہوا کوئی رقم اور نہیں کی گئی
- اپنی حرکتیں میں مدد پر ہمارے امریکی سفیر کی سلامتی کا تحفظ
- بیجے گا
- بنگلہ دیش میں ہڑتال
- جنوبی کوریائیں انتخابی تشدد
- راولپنڈی اسلام آباد میں
- جانیادی کی قیمت گر گئی
- یوگنڈا میں احتجاج

Insak 3.36 am
Ifar 6.21 pm

INTERNATIONAL



Marcos: hopes

Aquino won't allow Marcos to return

MANILA, April 25, (AP): President Corason Aquino said yesterday she has no intention of allowing former President Ferdinand Marcos to return to the country.

"I just want our people to know and to reassure that I will never do anything that will go against the interests of the Filipino people," Aquino said during her weekly radio programme "ask the President."

She was responding to two women who said they were disappointed that she had sent emissaries early this year to meet with Marcos, who has been living in Hawaii since his ouster in February 1986.

One of the women said she was on the verge of disillusionment with Aquino because of reports that government representatives were negotiating with Marcos for his possible return. Aquino's spokesmen had earlier denied the reports.

Marcos told reporters in Honolulu last week that negotiations with Aquino's government were continuing and he was told he could return in two months to act as a government adviser.

Aquino said she sent two other relatives to meet with Marcos last January and February because she had heard his health was "really deteriorating very fast" and that he had a message for her.

"My directions to my relatives... were very clear — just to listen to what Mr Marcos had to say," Aquino said. "Never did I say that he could come back or that I wanted him to advise me and help me (find) the solutions to our problems."

Rajiv vows to implement socialism

NEW DELHI, April 25, (AP): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Sunday pledged to implement socialism in India said it is his Congress Party that alone can govern the country.

"We will launch a battle against poverty and unemployment. We shall take a pledge to implement the socialist pattern of society," Rajiv was quoted as saying by the United News of India at his party's annual conference.

The two-day conference ended in the south Indian town of Maraimalai, 45 kilometres (28 miles) south of Madras City in Tamil Nadu state.

State-owned television said 100,000 delegates attended the conference.

In political resolutions adopted at the conference, Congress leaders said their party was the only one that can ensure the unity of India and see that the nation of 800 million people prospers.

Conference speakers blasted India's opposition parties and said their efforts to unite were aimed at grabbing political powers.

Ershad opens new parliament

Bombs rock Bangladesh capital

DHAKA, April 25, (Reuters): Five home-made bombs exploded in the Bangladesh capital today at the start of an eight-hour, opposition-led general strike aimed at disrupting the opening of parliament.

No injuries were reported from the bombs, which police said were made of metal fragments and explosives and set off in the Magbazar area.

Five thousand military police patrolled Dhaka in response to the strike call by 21 opposition parties.

Shops, offices and banks were shuttered during the strike. All private cars and commuters stayed off the streets. But government buses and a large number of Dhaka's 100,000 cycle rickshaws moved normally.

Officials said the strike did not disrupt airlines, trains or ferry services.

Crisis

President Hosain Mohammad Ershad denounced the opposition's series of strikes in his address opening the new parliament.

"The undeclared objective of unending hartals (strikes) soon after the devastating floods was

to cause famine... which their sponsors believe would create crisis for the government and inevitably lead to transfer of power.

"As a cumulative effect of all these GDP (gross domestic product) growth in the current financial year is expected to be around 2.6 per cent (down from a 5.1 per cent target)," he said.

The house press gallery was empty for his speech as local journalists boycotted the session demanding more press freedom and withdrawal of a ban on some newspapers.

Security

Dhaka metropolitan police chief Nasrullah Khan ordered that anyone entering a three-mile (five km) radius of the parliament building would need a pass. He also banned movement of vehicles carrying arms and explosives in the area.

The 21 parties duh the new parliament as "fake" because they say it emerged through a rigged election on March 3. They had boycotted the election and asked Ershad to step down. They want him to hand over power to a caretaker government that would call fresh elections.

The government asked all parliament members and senior officials to stay in hostels adjacent to the parliament building in order to avoid being stranded during the strike.

Several thousand riot police and paramilitary troops were stationed around the parliament complex in the city's northern district to enforce a ban on street protests within two kilometres of the sprawling complex.

A parliament official said many legislators stayed in Dhaka overnight, either inside the parliament complex or in nearby houses so they could walk down to the session in spite of the strike.

Ershad's Jatiya Party won 251 of the 300 seats in the election March 3.

Campaign

The balloting was boycotted by the mainstream opposition parties, which have been sponsoring strikes and rallies since last Nov 10 in an effort to oust Ershad. The opposition contends that no elections can be run fairly while he remains in office.

There are 25 independent members of parliament, and the remaining 24 seats are shared by smaller opposition parties.

Opposition leaders claim that only 4.8 million of the country's 48 million voters exercised their franchise in the March polls.

In separate press statements, the main opposition leaders said today they would continue their campaign until the government was thrown out of power.

"We will not stop our movement till this autocratic regime is toppled," said Khaleda Zia, who leads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and a seven-party opposition alliance.

Sheikh Hasina said: "This parliament has not been elected by the people, and hence it has no locus standi to touch the constitution or pass any bills."

Hasina leads the Awami League and an eight-party alliance.

Ershad has said he plans to introduce a bill in parliament to amend the constitution and declare Islam as the state religion.

On Saturday more than 1,000 women, mostly college teachers, marched through the Dhaka streets to protest the proposal.

Nearly 90 per cent of Bangladesh's citizens are Muslim, but the government has traditionally been secular.

Egypt marks return of Sinai anniversary

Mubarak renews peace pledge

CAIRO, April 25, (UPI): President Hosni Mubarak, celebrating the sixth anniversary of Israel's evacuation of the Sinai desert, today affirmed Egypt's commitment to peace despite what he called the threats of war and terrorism in the Middle East.

In a nationwide radio and television broadcast marking the occasion, Mubarak said: "We are living in a part of the world threatened by bloody wars and evil terrorism and torn apart by international ambitions and disputes."

"This grave situation only adds to our commitment to peace," Mubarak said. "Therefore, we are sparing no effort at Arab and international forums to help the peoples of the region reach this noble objective."

Israel evacuated the Sinai desert, which it seized from Egypt in 1967, in line with a peace

treaty signed by the two countries in March 1979. The evacuation was completed on April 25, 1982 and the desert peninsula reverted to Egyptian sovereignty.

The anniversary comes as Egyptian-Israeli relations are at their lowest point since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Egypt repeatedly protests to Israel its clampdown on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and has accused the Jewish state of assassinating Abu Jihad, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's military commander, in Tunis.

US initiative

But Egypt has promoted the peace initiative of US Secretary of State George Shultz, hoping that an international conference would work out a comprehensive peace between Israel and its other Arab neighbours.

On Sunday, Mubarak placed

wreaths of flowers at the tomb of the late President Anwar Sadat who, along with the then US President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, steered Egypt and Israel along the road to peace.

Sadat was assassinated by extremists on Oct 6, 1981, a few months before the evacuation of the Sinai desert was completed.

Mubarak, in his broadcast, appealed to opposition political parties to work for national unity and "rise above political manoeuvres."

"We are in favour of political pluralism but we oppose factionalism that seeks to impose its views and start artificial storms," he said.

The appeal was significant because the opposition waged a fierce anti-government campaign following its decision last month to prolong a state of emergency for three years.

Jakarta to deport sex offenders

JAKARTA, April 25, (Reuters): Indonesia warned today that it would deport foreigners involved in prostitution.

"We will not compromise with foreigners involved in illegal practices and we will send them back to their countries of origin and have them blacklisted so that they cannot enter Indonesia again," Hamsuk Wijaya, spokesman for the Indonesian Immigration Department, told reporters.

Police last week arrested a Thai woman at Jakarta Airport and accused her of sending four young Indonesian women to Japan to work as prostitutes in a bar.

The 27-year-old Thai, Kimita Takeshi, wife of a Japanese man, was charged with cheating her victims by offering them jobs in Japan with high salaries, but firing them to work as prostitutes.

The four women sought help from the Japanese police and later reported to the Indonesian embassy in Tokyo.

Wijaya said Indonesia last year deported 11 foreign women prostitutes operating at international hotels in Jakarta and Surabaya who had entered the country as tourists.

Afghans stirred by hopes for peace

KABUL, April 25, (Reuters): Flags and hunting decking the streets of Kabul today stirred hopes for peace more than enthusiasm for the 10th anniversary of Afghanistan's leftist revolution.

Afghan soldiers painted tanks and decorated military trucks for a big military parade through the streets of the capital tomorrow to mark the 1978 revolution.

But a taxi-driver, weaving through the rutted streets full of armour and checkpoints, seemed to catch the popular mood when he muttered: "Too much military."

Anticipation of the end of nine years of fighting between the Afghan Army with its Soviet backers, and the mujahadeen, which has killed one million Afghans out of a population of 18 million, was apparent everywhere.

Soviet soldiers, in the past grim-faced and jumpy, lolled cheerfully in their camps surrounding the dusty, mud-coloured city, posing for photographs and visibly concerned more with going home than with fighting on.

Fighting

Heavy fighting continues in the provinces, but in the daylight, at least, these Russians seemed a world away from it.

"The Russians are ready to leave — they are very open about it," said a government official, in an admission unthinkable only a few months ago.

Magnesium flares still hurt in the blue sky over the airport to decoy possible stinger missile attacks by the rebels. But diplomats report a decline in military activity around the city since the Geneva accord was signed 11 days ago.

In the bazaars, the Afghani strengthened appreciably against other currencies and food prices soared on worries that Soviet food supplies, which Western sources put at 40 per cent of the country's total needs, may dwindle when their troops go home.

The military parade tomorrow will be followed by the customary "people's parade" at which civilians are expected to celebrate publicly.



Three-year-old Sonam Yanal of Bhutan finds the life of a diplomat tough as she takes part in World Children's Day at the United Nations. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mini-ambassadors at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS, April 25, (Xinhua): About 1,500 children from different countries gathered yesterday at the United Nations headquarters in New York for a "special general assembly" to celebrate the World Children's Day, calling in one voice for world peace.

The children, in their most elegant and beautiful national costumes, started the celebration with the release of 3,000 colourful balloons, a symbol of their common aspiration for peace and freedom.

Sunday was the third anniversary of the World Children's Day which was founded in 1986 by two students from New York, who wrote a letter addressed to the "kids of the world," inviting them to come together for a day with the common objective of peace.

Since then, every fourth Sunday of April, children around the world will get together at the United Nations headquarters to celebrate the day.

Yesterday, all the children became the symbolic ambas-

sadors of their nations. When they were led into the General Assembly hall.

The spirit was one of joy and laughter. Each of them was given the opportunity to sit in their ambassador's chair, symbolising the legacy attached to future generation.

"We want to call attention to the world that the children will be inheriting the world. They want to live in peace," said Nancy Bennet, director of the development and public relations of the World Children's Day Foundation (WDCF), which along with the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) organised the celebrations.

James Ochieng, a 12-year-old boy from Kenya who was among about 40 children taking the floor, said that he is really glad to be here to celebrate the World Children's Day, because "it gives all the children a chance to express their feelings about world peace."

Yuan Yin, an eight-year-old girl from China, said that if she were a teacher, she would teach her students to "love peace and do every thing for peace."

S. Koreans choose new legislature

SEOUL, April 25, (UPI): Campaigning for parliamentary elections was in its last day today with the ruling party hoping for a majority to solidify the power of President Roh Tae-woo while the opposition predicted a "one-party dictatorship" if his Democratic Justice Party wins.

A new controversy added more heat to the contest for National Assembly seats with a government party candidate accused of trying to mail cash gifts to voters in a provincial constituency. The ruling party expelled the candidate, apologising to the nation.

Though most polls favoured the Justice Party to win the largest number of seats, possibly a majority, in tomorrow's voting, candidates in hotly contested areas were mobilising all means to secure victory.

At stake in the nationwide balloting are 224 seats in the National Assembly. The other 75 "proportional representation" seats are divided up according to the number of seats won by each party.

Opposition leader Kim

Young-Sam, who lost to Roh in the Dec 16 presidential election, was running for a seat in the assembly and his arch-rival Kim Dae Jung was expected to be awarded a seat from the proportional seats won by his party.

Unlike the election fever that gripped the nation during last December's first free election since 1971 voters have given a lacklustre response to recent campaign rallies, apparently fatigued by more than a year of non-stop political turmoil.

In the election for lawmakers who will serve for four years, 1,041 candidates are competing for the 224 directly contested seats.

In the latest violence, one youth was arrested yesterday for hurling a firebomb at former Defence Minister Chung Ho-Yung, a close ally of Roh, in Taegu 150 miles (240 km) south-east of Seoul, while he was addressing the voters. Chung was not injured.

Political rivals have also staged scattered attacks with fists, rocks and firebombs, injuring scores of people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abandoned infants

BEIJING, April 25, (Reuters): Railway authorities have opened an official register of abandoned babies after 38 infants were found in Beijing's main train station last year, the newspaper Life News said today.

It said most of the babies found by station staff were blind, deformed or retarded and were believed to have been left by peasant parents who hoped the children would be well brought up in the relatively affluent capital.

Last week, another Chinese newspaper said 25 homeless beggars had died of cold, hunger or illness in a 15-month period in the waiting rooms of Beijing's second largest railway station, in a rare official report on destitution in the capital.

Yemens to trim guards

ABU DHABI, April 25, (Reuters): The leaders of North and South Yemen have agreed to reduce the number of troops guarding their common frontier, South Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al-Baidh said.

"We have agreed to reduce the two sides' troops at the borders in a bid to forestall any confrontation which we totally reject," Baidh told the Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Ittihad.

In the interview published today, Baidh said they were considering jointly exploiting oil deposits on the border.

Kanak woman shot dead

NOUMEA, April 25, (Reuters): A young Kanak woman was shot dead today, hours after French gendarmes were ordered to show no mercy to gunmen in the French-ruled South Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Leopold Jorodier, a Kanak separatist leader, said he considered the Paris government had "declared colonial war" with its announcement that gendarmes would fire back if shot at.

The Melanesian teenager was the first Kanak to die this year in an incident involving police.

Italian restaurant opens in China

BEIJING, April 25, (AP): The first Italian restaurant in China, Toulia-Beijing of the Milan-based Toulia group, opens today in a Beijing hotel.

Tong Hualing, general manager of the Beijing International Hotel, said at a news conference that the Chinese chefs have been trained in Italy and Toulia has sent a manager and chef to oversee operations.

He said 20 per cent of the food would be imported from Italy with the remainder coming from China.

Mayor's aide slain

MANILA, April 25, (AP): Two men wearing jogging clothes shot dead a bodyguard of the mayor of suburban Makati as he drank coffee outside his home, police said.

Police quoted witnesses as saying the assailants shouted, "don't interfere, we're the NPA," referring to the Communist New People's Army, before the attack yesterday. But officials said they were uncertain whether they were actually rebels.

Elephants in search of beer

GAUHATI, India, April 25, (UPI): Drunk elephants searching for rice beer rampaged throughout a remote settlement in northeastern India, killing five people, injuring 12 others and forcing thousands of terrified villagers to flee, an official said yesterday.

"People should stop making this liquor as elephants are drawn by the smell," advised Deb Roy, the state's forestry director, after the Saturday night stampede through Behali village, 1,140 miles east of New Delhi in Assam state.

He said the fumes of "lao pani," an alcoholic beverage made from rice local Hindus usually drew after the first rice harvest, lured 13 pachyderms into the settlement of more than 2,000 inhabitants on the edge of a state forest.

Proceeded

The elephants proceeded to imbibe the brew, and after consuming several large vats, began searching for more, he said.

Roy said villagers used firecrackers and flaming torches to try and scare away the hefty creatures but the tactics only infuriated the beasts, who rampaged through the village.

Five people — including three women — were crushed to death, and 12 other villagers were injured in the stampede, which also destroyed some 100 thatched houses, Roy said.

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Slow Soviet economic growth might undermine Gorbachev

WASHINGTON, April 25, (Reuters): The Soviet Union's drive to modernise its economy encountered trouble in 1987 that could undercut the political strength of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a US intelligence study released yesterday said.

"Familiar problems with poor weather and transportation bottlenecks were compounded by the disruptions caused by the introduction of economic reforms, with the result that Soviet gross national product grew by less than one per cent last year," it said.

Perestroika

The study was prepared for the joint economic committee of Congress by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defence Intelligence Agency. It described the Soviet economy as stagnant in 1987 and said there were shortages of consumer goods and falling output.

Since coming to power three years ago, Gorbachev has tried to revive the economy through a

programme known as perestroika — a term describing tighter economic discipline, industrial modernisation and economic reform — but some elements have backfired, the study suggested.

It said a quality-control programme introduced in 1,500 industrial enterprises was particularly disruptive because wage reform, reductions in ministerial staffs and financial reforms had complicated managers' jobs.

Though Soviet military programme seemed to be on track so far, "the real loser in 1987 appeared to be the consumer who — three years into Gorbachev's economic programme — has seen almost no increase in his standard of living," the study said.

Continuing weak economic growth could cause rising tension within Soviet society and the leadership and possibly lead to widespread discontent.

Bureaucrats will become increasingly frustrated by loss of

privileges and status and by demands that they show greater initiative," the study said.

"Military leaders are likely to become more and more uneasy if benefits from the industrial modernisation fail to materialise."

Difficult

The study said Gorbachev appeared to have no set timetable for achieving signs of progress, but "failure to head off these tensions would, at a minimum, make it more difficult to pursue his economic programme vigorously and could, ultimately, call into question his strong political base at home."

Soviet agricultural output fell three per cent last year from 1986 levels, while the critical machine-building sector showed no increase in output, the study said.

It said that, on a positive note, energy production was up in 1987 so Moscow was able to boost its hard currency earnings by increasing fuel exports to Western countries.

Dhahar situation under control: Awadi

Probe into house collapse

KUWAIT'S Minister of Planning, Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said in a press conference yesterday that the government was investigating the collapse of a house in the Dhahar area which resulted from "geological factors." He added, "The situation in Dhahar is under control."

The Chief Engineer of the Dhahar Housing Project Jassem Al Khulaifi said that a cave-in in the area had resulted in 13 houses being vacated as a precautionary measure. A hole, measuring 31 and a half metres deep and 20 metres wide, is being filled with sand and 300 cubic metres of concrete.

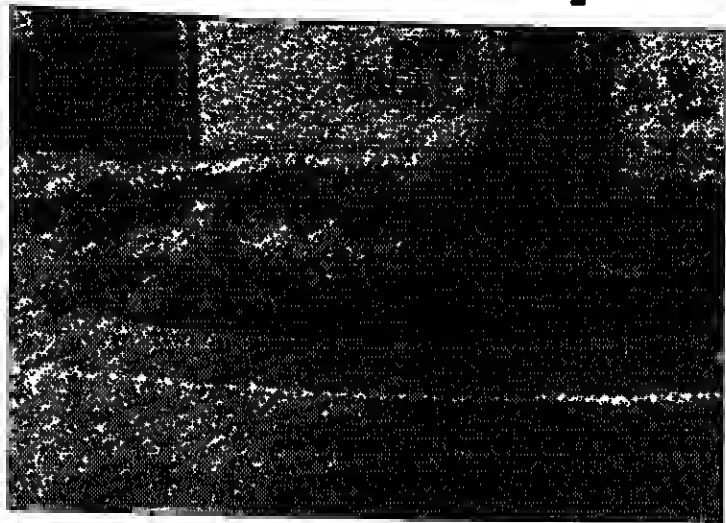
He said that the soil is being tested and every effort was being made to prevent further cave-ins. One citizen who has been relocated in the Sabah Al Salem area said that the move has been very inconvenient for him. He added that the cave in began as a small hole and then gradually kept getting bigger.

The Dhahar Housing Project consists of 2,541 houses with a population of 20,000. It has been plagued with housing problems since it was built in 1985, and a public relations office has been opened to respond to complaints made by citizens in the project.

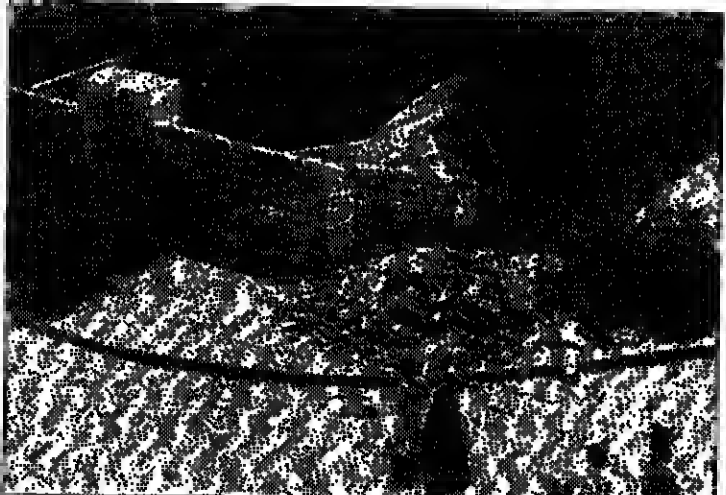
A local newspaper reported that the hole which swallowed the car had become bigger, reaching a depth of 30 metres and a width of 15 metres. The hole was likely to engulf the adjacent substation if it became larger, the newspaper said.

The owner of the house of the collapsed diwaniya said that this was the second time the diwaniya had collapsed. He said he had notified the National Housing Authority (NHA) three months ago about cracks in the house but there had been no response. He believed that other houses would also collapse.

Security fence
State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan, State Minister for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Rifai, Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan, Justice Minister Dbari Al Othman, NHA director general Dr Ibrahim Al Sbaheen, and senior officials of the NHA, Interior Ministry and Fire Department, rushed to the spot, held a meeting and decided to have the



The hole which swallowed the car



The collapsed diwaniya

houses in the area evacuated at once.

Al Roudhan said NHA staff noticed the big hole that had swallowed the car and had put up a security fence around the hole to protect people. He added that a diwaniya sank into the ground in the same area and the authorities evacuated the houses as a precaution.

He said the NHA provided flats for the house owners as a temporary measure until tests

were carried out on the soil of the area.

A team from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Kuwait University studied the matter and gave explanations for the situation.

The newspaper also reported that the Electricity and Water Ministry studied the problem of underground water in Zahr area. The report said the water may cause the collapse of houses in the area.

Distribution of books

THE Undersecretary of the Education Ministry, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari, has instructed the schools curriculum and books department to study the ministry's needs in books in the light of statistics prepared by the planning department, the estimates of the educational

areas and the statements issued by the supplies and stores department.

He also instructed the supplies and stores department to distribute books according to the curriculum to schools under the supervision of the educational areas.

Minister thanks staff for hijack coverage

INFORMATION Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah addressed all the staff on the occasion of the end of the hijacking of the KAC jetliner and the return of the hostages to Kuwait.

He thanked the staff for the coverage of the hijacking during the 16 days.

He said the crisis enabled the staff to take part in efforts to support the national unity of Kuwait which was the strongest weapon to face challenges and crises.

Sheikh Jaber pointed out that several international news agencies and newspaper admired the Kuwaiti media for the excellent coverage of the crisis.

Students union hosts reception

LONDON, April 25, (Kuna): The Union of Kuwaiti Students — UK branch — hosted a reception party here last evening to observe the happy ending of the hijack ordeal.

The reception was attended by Kuwaiti ambassador here Ghazi Al Rayess and other Kuwaiti diplomats in addition to students from all over the UK.

The union praised the government of Kuwait for its firm position not to meet the demands of the hijackers topped by their request that 17 prisoners in Kuwait be released.

The 17 prisoners requested for release, the union said, are criminals who undertook a violent operation against the embassies of the US and France.

Extension of work hours discussed

TAREQ Al Abdul Jader, the Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs at Kuwait's Public Health Ministry, presided over a meeting of senior ministry officials and health centre directors to discuss the possibility of a one-hour extension to the health centres' work hours.

Meanwhile, Health Ministry sources said the ministry would begin outlining doctors' job descriptions, which would include clinical, supervisory and administrative positions.

Kuwait's handling of hijack ordeal lauded

BAGHDAD, April 25, (Kuna): A leading Iraqi media expert was today highly appreciative of the handling of the Kuwaiti government and people and the media of the 16-day ordeal of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner which ended in the safe return of the passengers and crew.

The Kuwaitis have shown beyond any doubt that "the will and determination of a people have nothing to do with the size of population of the country but are tied to the values of the Arabs everywhere," Director General of the Iraqi News Agency Saad Al Bazzaz told Kuna.

The government and people of Kuwait have flatly and firmly refused to bow to any form of blackmail or pressure despite the mean methods used by the hijackers throughout the "voyage of terror" which lasted 16 days," he said in an interview with Kuna.

In this connection, Al Bazzaz lauded the attitude of the Kuwaiti media not only in treating the developments of the hijacking but in its overall handling of the pan-Arab issues which he described as "mature."

He said that in addition to its high professional standard, the Kuwaiti press and information media in the country are courageous in responding to the pan-Arab issues especially the Palestinian cause, the popular uprising in occupied Palestine, the Iraq-Iran war, and other Arab causes.

Choose

At the time the press in some parts choose to give up confrontation and attend to issues of secondary importance, the press in Kuwait opted to tackle hot issues of direct bearing on the future of the Arab nation, he added.

Bazzaz said that history will remember the honourable stand of Kuwaiti media in its treatment of the Arab causes and its full dedication to the honour and wellbeing of the Arab nation against all challenges.

The Iraqi media expert concluded calling for an Arab media capable of upholding the Arab values at the present critical juncture of the history of the Arab nation as a pre-requisite to countering invaders and ambition-seekers.

Kuwait's embassies get more congratulatory cables

KUWAIT'S embassies in various countries are still receiving congratulatory cables on the great victory achieved by the release of the hostages on the hijacked KAC jetliner.

In Baghdad, the embassy was visited by ambassadors and other officials of GCC states and other countries. The visitors offered their congratulations and praised Kuwait for its firm stand against the hijacking.

In Khartoum, and Rabat the

embassies received cables and telephone calls.

In Manama, the embassy received congratulations on the release of the passengers.

In Bonn, the embassy received telexes and cables of congratulations on the release of the hostages.

The President of Brazil expressed his congratulations on the happy outcome to the hijacking of the KAC jetliner.

Computer centre to be developed

THE Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari, has formed a committee to develop the educational computer centre.

The committee is headed by the vice rector for librarian research at Kuwait University, Dr Mohammad Zuhairi.

Al Khudari said the committee would study the existing method of processing information on education, conduct studies to

develop the existing situation and upgrade the efficiency of the information handling system to meet the ministry's requirements.

He also formed another committee to examine the regulations on primary and intermediate examination.

The committee is to be headed by the assistant undersecretary for information and student affairs, Abdul Mohsen Al Saeed.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait, where he relayed to the Amir a message from President Chadli Ben Jedid.

Later, the Amir received the executive secretary of the Regional Organisation for Maritime Environment Protection and Planning Minister, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, who was accompanied by chairman of the Environment Protection Society Homed Shualib, Kuwait's representative to the organisation, Marium Al Awadi, and secretary of the Environment Commission in Kuwait, Ibrahim Hadi.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Arabs urged to close ranks

KUWAITI newspaper Al Rai Al Aam urged Arabs to close ranks in the face of superpower interest-sharing designs in the region.

The daily in a front-page editorial said that the two superpowers took the advantage of the tensions in the region and managed to fuel the unending wars and conflicts for their own interests. The paper noted that those big powers ignite the tensions and wars, then launch initiatives and peace plans claiming that they are seriously trying to end those conflicts.

Al Rai Al Aam lamented that some Arabs still believe such initiatives and give concessions which run counter to their interests.

Shevardnadze to visit Middle East soon

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit the Middle East shortly following the American-Soviet summit which will be held next month in Moscow, according to a press report here on Sunday.

Al Seyassah, quoting sources in the Soviet foreign ministry, added that Shevardnadze's tour to the region includes Syria and Jordan and possibly Kuwait. Other diplomatic sources in the Soviet foreign ministry told the Kuwaiti paper that a headway toward breaking the stalemate in the complex Mideast issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war could

pave the way for a possible visit to the region by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Regarding Shevardnadze's tour to the region, Al Seyassah learnt that it will centre on the Iraq-Iran war. It noted that Moscow believes that any settlement to the Gulf conflict should be based on full respect of the two countries' rights and their vital interests.

According to the daily, several Soviet officials believe that Israel is very close to the Iraq-Iran conflict, and it found a gap in this war that enabled it to obstruct the mediation efforts aiming at ending the bloody conflict.

Eight prisoners pardoned

ABU DHABI, April 25, (Kuna): Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Umm Al-Qaiwain Sheikh Rasheed Bin Ahmad Al Mualah yesterday pardoned eight prisoners on the occasion of the holy Islamic fast-

ing month of Ramadan. The director of the emirate's police and public security said that the pardon is applicable to those who were not convicted in major crimes and are about to finish their sentences.

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Three quality control laboratories in operation

THE controller at the quality control office of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Mrs. Sheikhha Rashed Al Bader, said yesterday that three of six laboratories were operational.

She said that building material chemicals and dyes were tested at the laboratories for conformity with standard specifications.

She said that these standard measures used by the technicians at these labs were essential precautionary measures aimed at controlling imports and exports with a view to protecting the national economy.

She said that the functions of the quality control labs included the unification of standard quality control specifications for all commercial and industrial sectors in the country, and related services.

She said that other functions of the labs included the testing of raw materials, medium substances, products and imported items to ensure their conformity with local specifications for quality control purposes, and included the issue of certificates confirming compliance with standard quality control specifications.

Flexibility

She added that two types of tests were performed on samples at these laboratories, and included physical tests of concrete, for example, to establish its basic physical properties including the safety factor, and chemical tests to establish the weight of the substance or item after burning and also to determine the chemical elements.

She said certain specifications were treated with some amount of flexibility, with the sole exception of those on foodstuffs, which were compulsory and made and supervised by the Health Ministry and Kuwait Municipality.

She pointed out that the office was the only authority for issuing standard specifications in the country, and that there was cooperation between the office and the quality control centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Public Works Ministry and laboratories belonging to other service ministries.

She said that the building material lab performed physical tests aimed at ensuring the compatibility of building material

with standard Kuwaiti specifications of Portland concrete and related types, concrete blocks, tiles, sand, aggregate, limestone, insulation material, plastics and iron.

Analysis

She said that the chemical lab performed spectrometric analysis of material to establish its chemical components, determined the percentage of soluble minerals, estimated the moisture content and other tests.

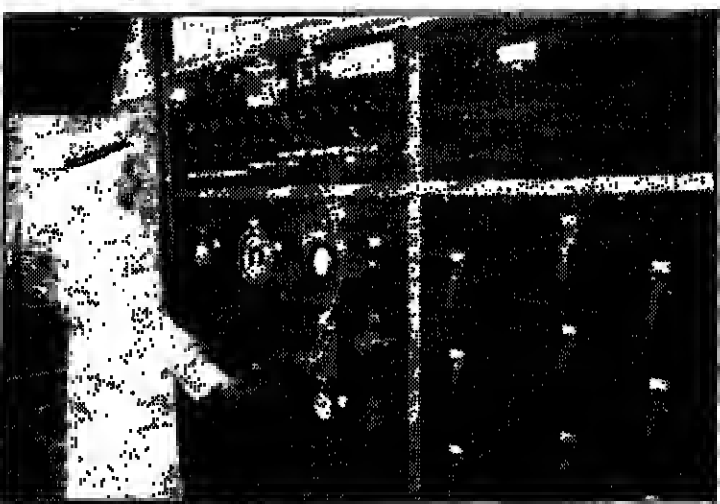
She also said that the dyes lab performed various tests of a chemical and physical nature on dyes, while the textile lab was concerned with establishing the texture composition of thread, cotton percentage ratio of other synthetic material in cloth and materials, and included stress and pressure tests.



Mrs. Sheikhha Rashed Al Bader



Laboratory technicians test material



A control panel in a laboratory

Amir receives Zia's message

PAKISTAN'S President Muhammad Zia Ul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, have sent messages of felicitation to HH the Amir on the release of the hostages, a press release from the Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait, said.

The President said that Pakistan was deeply concerned about the hostages on the Kuwaiti jetliner and was immensely relieved that their long ordeal was over.

He said that his country condemned this dastardly act which resulted in the loss of two innocent lives adding that Pakistan's prayers and sympathies were with the bereaved families.

President Zia took the opportunity to congratulate the Amir on the principled and courageous stand taken by Kuwait throughout this extremely difficult period.

The Prime Minister's message expressed the same sentiments.

11,016 kilos of spoiled foodstuffs destroyed

ABDULLA Al Shemmari, the Director of the Imported Foodstuffs Department at Kuwait Municipality, said that 317,223 kilos of foodstuffs had been re-exported last month. He added that 11,016 kilos of spoiled foodstuffs had been destroyed during the same period.

Al Shemmari explained that frozen meat imports are checked by the customs department and then municipality officials test the meat to determine whether it meets certain specifications as to type of meat, country of origin, date of packing and expiration and Islamic method of slaughtering.

He said the department inspectors check foodstuffs at stores, companies, supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and groceries. Inspectors regularly take samples of foodstuffs for laboratory testing at the Health Ministry.

21 accidents

THERE were 21 traffic accidents in Kuwait on Saturday.

Ten took place in Ahmedi, seven in Jahra, one in the city and three in Hawalli.



● HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, received Planning Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, who is chairman of Kuwait's Environment Protection Council, and members of the council on the occasion of Environment Protection Day. Top picture shows Sheikh Saad being presented with a commemorative shield by Dr. Al Awadi (centre) and a council official (right). Bottom picture shows Sheikh Saad with some of the members.



Prices of consumer goods soar

THE prices of different consumer goods were increased at the start of the holy month of Ramadan, market sources told Al Seyassah newspaper.

An official of the Kuwait Livestock Company, Zakaria Ibrahim, said that frozen meat prices ranged between 500 fils and 750 fils per kilogram. He told the newspaper that the company's prices were fixed and competitive. He said that packed beef prices ranged between KD1 and KD3, adding that most of this beef was imported from Germany and Holland.

Demand

A shop supervisor, Abu Riadh, said sales last week were better than before, adding that the market had witnessed an increased demand for beef.

A salesman at the Turkish Meat Exhibition, Mohammed Mahmoud, said the last season was better than the current one. He said Australian mutton prices were between 600 fils and 650 fils per kilogram while Turkish meat was fixed at 750 fils. He expected sales to rise by 50 per cent during the first week of Ramadan.

The newspaper also interviewed a number of people in the foodstuff business.

Jaber Hassan Othman said that the sales this year had fallen compared to the last year, and

attributed this to the spread of wholesale markets. He said that the demand for fruit juices and frozen chicken had increased, while the demand for canned goods had fallen because people preferred fresh food during Ramadan.

Flooded

Another salesman said that sales had increased by 20 per cent in general but prices had increased by 60 per cent. He said the market was flooded with bananas, tomatoes, apricots, apples and strawberries, imported mostly from the Philippines and Holland.

A merchant, Hassan Sadiqi, said the market had recovered during the past few days, and attributed this to the abundance of different vegetables in the market.

A customer, Ahmed Jaddallah, said the prices had increased suddenly, adding that potato prices had risen by 50 per cent.

Another customer, Muhammad Al Rakkad, complained of the leap in prices during

Ramadan. He said a committee should be formed to limit price increases.

Hassan Al Zuahi said prices had risen during the past two days. He said a carton of fruit juice had risen from KD5 to KD6.

● Ahmedi Governorate held a march from the government offices to Fintas flyover at Safar motorway on the occasion of the return of the hostages held on the KAC jetliner Jaberiya. The Governor of Ahmedi, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, and senior officials headed the march. Students of schools in Ahmedi area, representatives of cooperative societies and charitable societies, popular troupes and a large number of citizens took part. Picture shows the Ahmedi governor and officials leading the march (above) and citizens in cars waving flags.



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Egyptian military strategist sees beginning of end of war

AN Egyptian military strategist was quoted yesterday as affirming that the recent escalation in the Iraq-Iran war could be the beginning of the end of the Gulf war, especially that Iraq has recaptured the Faw peninsula.

Head of Egypt's Nasser Strategy and National Security Academy, Dr. Ahmed Shnuqi was quoted by a Kuwaiti daily as saying that the recapture of Faw and missiles raids on the Iranian cities were apparently aimed at forcing Iran to respond favourably to the peace calls and accept a negotiated settlement of the war.

The expert, who made the remarks in Cairo, added that after Iraq tried and failed to make Iran accept the Security Council ceasefire call, as well as international mediations, it restored to tougher military actions to make clear to Iran that it has no hope of winning the war militarily.

Shnuqi also noted that the recapture of Faw peninsula will ease Iranian pressure on Kuwait as the peninsula acted as a dividing line between Kuwait and Iran.

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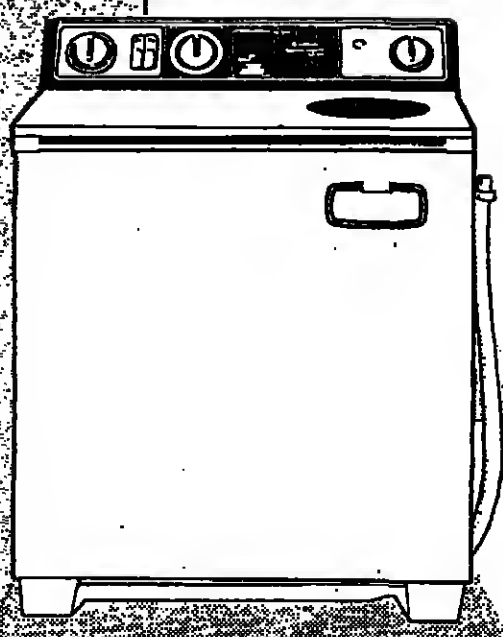
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EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
"The Islamic Heritage of Spain" is open daily from 10 am to 1 pm and 7 to 10 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg, Al Soor St.

THEATRE

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

The company will present two ballets "Carnival" and "The Never Ending Story" 8.30 pm nightly, until April 29, at the Mousetrup Theatre, NES, Jabriya. Tickets - KD 4. The box office at Mousetrup is open daily from 4 to 7 pm. For telephone bookings ring 5610673, 8 am to 1 pm.

Kuwait Players

Antidote - a Kuwait Players show of quick fire adult comedy sketches ranging from the subtle to the plain crazy - an evening of laughter will be held from May 11 to 15, 7.30 pm, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets - KD 3. For reservations call 5613465; 5610925 (pm) or 5611546 (pm).

SOCIAL

Kuwait Singers

"Songs for a Summer Evening" on May 31 and June 1, 8 pm, at Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets - KD2. For bookings call 3940770 ext. 57; 5384873; 5740627 (answering service).

Folk Night

There will be a meeting of the Kuwait Folk Group on Wednesday, April 27. For more information contact Boh Stucker, 5320284.

Summer Affair 88

The Weekend Club will host Summer Affair 88 at the Regency Palace Hotel on the first day of Eid Al Fitr. Music by Next of Kin, Top Ranks and Apaches. A talent contest with lots of surprises and prizes. Show will be compered by David Burfoot and Julio Cardoz. Dinner features Indian and Continental cuisine. For reservations call Raveen - 4714518; Mercedes 4890566; Carmello 4835488/232.

Kumustahan

The next Filipino get-together (Kumustahan) will be held from 6 to 9 pm on April 29 at The Church Hall. All Filipinos are welcome. Snacks will be served.

Story Time

Story Time for children will be held on April 28, 10.30 am, for children of ages between three and six at the British Council in Mansouriya. Children of all nationalities are welcome.

YMCA Holiday Special

The Young Men's Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messiah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other Contest, Funky King and Queen. For reservations contact Lancy - 4814914, 9 am to 4 pm, 3981790; 3929518, 5 to 8 pm.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads

Rugby Club

Calendar for May:
May 1: full match at Fintas; kick off - 7.30 pm; attendance compulsory for Cyprus tourists; all others welcome. Match followed by tour meeting to pay outstanding monies.

Thursday, May 5: game at Fintas, Men vs Women plus BQs. Game followed by BBQ. KD 2.500 per head.

Tuesday, May 10: club annual general meeting at Gazelle Club, 7.30 pm.

Young Goans Association

Seven-a-side football tournament on May 17, Al Soor ground. Draw on same day at 7.30 am. Tournament begins at 7.45 am. For details contact Almeida on 4813740.

Laser Sailing

Single Design Dinghy Sailing Club is being formed. Laser sailing enthusiasts contact Ken Balman on 5624111 ext. 751/739.

Palarong Pilipino

There will be a meeting of all tennis participants in the Filipino Mini-Olympics at 6 pm on April 28 at Mabuhay Restaurant. All Filipinos are invited. For details contact Bong Melencio - 4877793.

HOTELS

At the Hilton

Break your fast with family and friends in La Palma, open daily from sunset to 1.30 am. La Palma offers iftar buffet with thirst quenching drinks and Ramadan specials. A special a la carte menu is offered from iftar to 1.30 am.

At the Maridien

Indian, Japanese and Chinese tea and sweets offered every evening after iftar in the Tea Lounge, until Thursday.

Frenchman to play Arab music

A FRENCHMAN will play Arab music "with the spirit of the Arabs" at a concert in Kuwait. The Frenchman, Julien Weiss, is a member of Al Kindi music quartet, which is to give a recital on Sunday, May 1, at the Meridien Hotel.

The Al Kindi comprises Weiss (qanoun), Larbi Ouechni (kaman), Muhammad Saada (flute) and Adel Shamseddine (riqq). Together they'll alternate between French baroque and Arab classical music, presenting a combination of 14th and 15th century classical music and Arab-Islamic classics from Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria and Iraq.

Frenchman Julien Weiss, in a recent interview, talked about his love for Arab music, which he has cultivated over the years. "A musician must acquire a spirit for playing Arab music; requiring years of training," he said.

Weiss first listened to Arab music when he had to prepare for a concert at the Egyptian Cultural Centre in Paris. "I listened to some Arab music and was inspired by it," he said. After examining several musical instruments, he selected the qanoun.

Challenge

The qanoun, a string instrument, was invented by Farabi and has since been improved by later musicians. The number of strings have been increased and its shape has changed considerably since it was first invented. "I listened to some Arab music and was inspired by it," he said. After examining several musical instruments, he selected the qanoun.

A professional guitarist,



Three members of the Al Kindi Quartet: (L-R) Adel Shamseddine, Larbi Ouechni and Muhammad Saada.



Three members of the Al Kindi Quartet: (L-R) Adel Shamseddine, Larbi Ouechni and Muhammad Saada.



Three members of the Al Kindi Quartet: (L-R) Adel Shamseddine, Larbi Ouechni and Muhammad Saada.

Weiss' goal was to master the qanoun. This, it turned out, was a tough job. Thus, began his frequent trips to such countries as Egypt, learning to "play qanoun as the Arabs play."

In Cairo, he joined the Academy of Art and studied under professor Kamal Abdullah. He also bought his first qanoun.

After he completed studies, he joined a group of Arab musicians. Weiss found he could not make much headway as he was "working on the qanoun as I would have handled the guitar."

He explains: "I was playing an Arab instrument but applying Western techniques. It just didn't work." Weiss did not give up. He continued studying music first under the popular Lebanese qanoun player Elia Al Asqar and then played for four years recorded music for the singer Shafiq Al Alawi.

His association with Al

Alawi gave him immense confidence. During those four years, he matured as a performer, giving several concerts in French-speaking areas in the Lebanon.

Repertoire

Restless, Weiss needed a change. "I felt the need to expand my musical repertoire," he said. So, he went to Turkey, where he learned the finer points of Turkish-Islamic music.

"I had to understand the nuances, similarities and differences between different types of Islamic music," he said.

By this time, Weiss was totally immersed in Arab music. He also became an Arabist, reading "everything that I could, about the Arab world." He read Arabic history, philosophy and the history of music.

"Culture is not inborn. It can be cultivated by study and prac-

tice," he said.

Weiss has often been criticised by some for "playing an Arab musical instrument." Others encourage him in his endeavor. But his greatest reward, it seems, comes from being one with the instrument he is playing.

"I want to play the qanoun like the Arabs," he says. Weiss, today, is an established musician performing in several Arab and European countries.

Weiss, and the other members of the Al Kindi quartet, are currently touring the Middle East. After their Kuwait concert, they will perform in Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

At the Kuwait concert they will play troubadours and music written by Guillaume de Machaut, Binchois, Dufay and Thomas Crecquillon.

Their concert has been organised by the Cultural Centre, French Embassy, in Kuwait.

GCC promotes artists

THE GCC's culture committee has decided to encourage art and artists. This was announced after a recent meeting held in Kuwait. The announcement said an art exhibition is to be held every two years to promote art in the region. The first exhibition will be held in January next year. Each Gulf state will display 20 paintings.

The committee will present gold, silver and bronze awards to the best entry; souvenir shields will be distributed to all participating countries.

The third meeting of the Culture Committee, affiliated to the GCC, was recently held in Kuwait. It was chaired by Sulaiman Al Askari, acting secretary-general of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. Officials from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman also attended the meeting.

The participants decided to hold a "seminar on music and singing" in Bahrain in October this year. A seminar on children's literature will be hosted by Qatar later this year. (Kuna)

Al Andalus

Ice Pirates
Starring: Mary Crosby
Al Sahniya
Latino

Starring: Robert Beltrini
Al Hamra
Police Story
Starring: Jackie Chan

Drive-In
Hikayat Nus Million Dinar
(Arabic)

Starring: Yahya Fakhrani, Iham Shahin
Al Firdous
Kali Dada (Hindi)

Starring: Krishna, Bhanu Priya
Fahaaheel Open-Air
Shaan (Hindi)

Al Fahaaheel
Living Daylight
Al Jahra

Dharmo Amr
Granada
Evide Ellavarkum Sugam
(Malayalam)

Sulaibikhat
Dirty Harry
Al Jleeb

Marzada (Bengali)
Adhami Drive-In
Bah Nasar (Arabic)

Starring: Bosti, Magdi Wahba, Najwa Fuad

NIGHT CHEMIST

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Al Amal Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra

Al Nasser Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Sahniya and Rumaithiya

Ibn Nafes Pharmacy
Hmoud Khalifa Al Hamida Bldg., Hamad Al Mubarak St.

Fahaaheel and Ahmadi
Al Adel Pharmacy
Awadhi Bldg., F'heel.

Jleeb Al Shiyooh
Al Nimran Pharmacy
opp. Secondary School
Jahra

Al Khalid Pharmacy
opp. Cooperative Society

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

1.00 Holy Quran
1.10 Tao Tao: cartoon serial

2.00 Al Moa'timid Bin Ibd: historical serial, starring Osama Al Mashini, Nidal Al Ashqar, Mahmoud Saeed.

2.30 On Ramadan: religious programme

3.35 Dukkan al Dunya: daily serial? starring Muna Wasef, Muhammad Al Ibad, Jayana Eid

4.45 Tazzawaj: Wa lbtasama: daily Arabic serial; starring Samir Ghanem, Ragbda, Ahmad Badar.

5.30 Hadith Deeni: religious talk

6.30 Cartoons
6.45 After Iftar

7.00 Madinat Al Riyah: children's serial, featuring Khalid Al Obaid, Abdul Rahman Al Aqal, Jassim Nahhan, Muhammad Jaber, Ahmad Saleh, Huda Hussain

8.00 A Talk Showon Islamic Philosophy

9.00 Deirat Khair: on



Margaret Collin in Leg Work, on KTV 2 tonight.

Ramadan

9.30 Ramadan Contests

10.00 News in Arabic

11.00 Iza'j: daily serial, starring Ghanem Al Saleh, Zainab Al Dahi, Maryam Ghabban, Dawood Hussein

11.45 Late Night Serial: Thaman Al Khouf. Starring Hassan Yusuf, Firdus Abdul Hamid, Rashwan Tawfiq, Ajlal Zaki.

2.15 News Summary

2.20 Holy Quran - Closedown

KTV 2

8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 Pole Positions: cartoons

8.30 News in English

8.45 Football: The Amir's Cup. Kazema vs winner of group D.

10.10 Leg Work: "Blind Trust." Claire's brother, a police officer, is working on a fraud case and gets into trouble

11.00 Q.E.D. Documentary

11.30 Twilight Zone: "Grace Note." The story of a woman who does not succeed in her singing career.

12.00 Feature Film: "Brotherly Love." Starring: Judu Hersch, Kyle Carlson. Thriller. The story of twins, one is a police officer and other a criminal.

1.30 News Summary

1.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

08.00 Opening
08.05 Songs and Music
08.15 Thoughts in Islam
08.20 Songs and Music
08.30 NEWS
08.40 Songs and Music
08.45 Daily Programme
09.00 Songs and Music
09.30 They Sold A Million
10.00 Our Press Today
10.05 Songs and Music
11.00 Closedown
13.30 NEWS on FM Service

Evening

21.00 Opening
21.05 In The Latin Mood
21.30 NEWS
21.45 Point of View
21.55 Songs and Music
22.00 Religious Programme
22.15 In The Groove
22.45 Daily Programme
23.00 Hit Special
23.30 Jazz in Action
24.00 Closedown

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsweek
30 12th Best on Record; 19th and 26th Karajan at 80.

0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Short Story
45 Journey Round My people

0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Network UK
30 Sports International

0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 John Peel

0400 Newsweek
30 Virtuoso (ex 26th Rhythms of the Sun)
45 Reflections
50 Financial News

0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 New Ideas
40 Turning Over New Leaves
45 The World Today

0600 Newsweek
30 Counterpoint
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Journey Round My People
45 Network UK

0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 Tech Talk
30 12th Best on Record; 19th and 26th Karajan at 80

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Sherwalkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.45 am
Zuhur 11.46
Asr 3.21 pm
Maghreb 6.21
Isha 7.44

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The Senior School Choir. (Photos by Javed Basra)

Delightful Gala Concert

THE New English School (NES) on Sunday presented their annual Gala Concert featuring a selection of classical music. Over 50 students, including the band and the Senior Choir, took part in the two-and-a-half hour show.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance. The principals in this musical were Krystoff Overkowitz, Seema Gaur, Martin Kirk, M. Thomas, S. Hill, Lester Faleiro and A. Robertson.

The dilemma of Frederic, the pirate apprentice, has been a

popular musical since it first premiered in 1879. NES students delighted the audience in the typical operetta. Costumes for the show were loaned

by the Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi.

The musical gala was organised by the NES Music Department.



Clockwise: scenes from Pirates of Penzance

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The musical gala was organised by the NES Music Department.



Clockwise: scenes from Pirates of Penzance



Clockwise: scenes from Pirates of Penzance



Clockwise: scenes from Pirates of Penzance



Clockwise: scenes from Pirates of Penzance



● A Dutch travel and tourist delegation recently visited Kuwait, in cooperation with KAC and Sheraton Hotel. Above: some members of the delegation pictured with KAC and hotel officials at a dinner hosted by the Sheraton Hotel.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MANY toil hard to earn a loaf when a slice should be sufficient — Dutch proverb.

Lebanon's presidential poll

A theatre for foreign players

By Michael Kull

BEIRUT, (Reuters): The reactions of Lebanese people to presidential elections in August and the prospect of a new head of state are often more a matter of temperament than politics.

Optimistic citizens may be following the local media intently, looking for any sign that the poll may herald an end to 13 years of internecine warfare and hoping that someone of stature emerges, capable of reconciling rival ideologies and sectarian ambitions.

Others, looking back at innumerable ceasefires which failed and peace plans which were never implemented, may take a much more pessimistic view.

Most Lebanese are simply spectators of bizarre theatre. Their country is the stage for a script squabbled over by regional and international powers jostling for pre-eminence.

At best, a new man will take office as president for six years with the power to change by force or persuasion the way things are done or not done in Lebanon.

At worst, he will inherit a chain of office, palace, a posse of machine-gun-toting bodyguards, a couple of bullet-proof Cadillacs, a few miles of well-paved road and precious little else.

"It (the election) is not between the electors, not between the candidates, and not even around the person of the next president or his programme, but between forces that want to restore their former role in the election and forces that are trying to experiment with a new role."

For a start, the poll takes place in a political vacuum. Lebanon has been virtually without government for two years because Muslim leaders have boycotted the current president, Amin Gemayel, 47, whose term ends in September.

Second, some rules have been fixed in advance. The constitution stipulates the president must be a Maronite Christian, drawn from a privileged minority dominating the bills overlooking Beirut known as Mount Lebanon.

Recapture of Faw gives Iraq a boost

By John Rice

BAGHDAD, (AP): Iraq's recapture of the Faw peninsula from Iran this week provided Baghdad with a major political victory, despite the limited military value of the dusty uninhabited wasteland.

The successful attack on the peninsula, extending from southern Iraq into the Gulf, robbed Tehran of a key bargaining chip that could be used if the countries ever negotiate for peace.

"It's insignificant as far as the military situation is concerned," a Baghdad-based Western diplomat said of the Iraqi victory. "But psychologically, it had been the needle in their flesh."

The Iraqis are hailing their recovery of Faw as one of their greatest military triumphs in the 7-1/2-year-old Gulf war. While analysts doubt that, they concede it has given Baghdad a big morale boost.

The elite Presidential Guard and the 7th Army Corps smashed through Iranian lines north of Faw on Sunday. By Monday afternoon they had seized full control of the peninsula that dominates Iraq's two main outlets to the Gulf, the Shatt Al Arab and the Khor Abdullah waterways.

Captured Iran captured about 20 kilometres (12 miles) of the peninsula in February 1986, stunning Iraq, which failed in repeated bloody counterattacks to retake the flatlands. Iran renamed Faw city, an abandoned refinery town, Al Zahra and held a wrestling tournament there last year to emphasise its grip.

Although Iran still occupies other small chunks of Iraqi territory along the 1,175-kilometre (730-mile border), Faw was its prize.

This in itself is a major source of conflict. Muslims, Arab nationalists and leftists have pressed for readjustments to curtail Christian prerogatives and give a bigger stake in government to the majority Muslims.

Hardliners of the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia fear such political restructuring will give neighbouring Syria the whip-hand in Lebanese affairs, but the Christians are divided on the precise political direction the country should take.

Third, the president will not be directly elected by the public. He will be chosen by the 77 surviving parliamentarians from a 99-seat chamber originally elected in 1972 and they represent the older generation of Lebanese rather than the youngsters now waging the civil war.

Finally, several states have power in Lebanese affairs. The election, like the civil war itself, is expected to mirror their rivalries, etching them anew across a land already split into rival tracts by local warlords.

Influence Most foreign states seeking influence in Lebanon have their own proxies — whether they be presidential candidates, well-equipped militias or clandestine guerrilla groups.

They include the United States, Israel, the Soviet Union, Iran, Libya and, perhaps most important of all, Syria.

With 25,000 troops in the country, Syria wants to retain its position as primary powerbroker without upsetting the general equilibrium of rival forces in the country as a whole, analysts say.

But Damascus cannot afford to risk a show-down with Israel, which occupies part of southern Lebanon, they say, and it lacks the "economic strength" for a protracted campaign against Lebanon allies of Tel Aviv or Tehran.

Few candidates have yet made known their ambitions for presidential office and none of them is regarded as a front-runner.

"Confusion over the nomination will increase in (Muslim) west and (Christian) east Beirut because there is so far not a single unified Christian or Muslim view," said an editorial in the independent An-Nahar newspaper.

The loss of Faw "turned Iraq into a landlocked country... and Iraq likes to think of itself as a Gulf country," said a Western analyst in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The war began in September 1980 partly because of a long-standing dispute between Iran and Iraq over who controls the Shatt Al Arab, the Gulf outlet of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Faw gave the Iraqis dominance on both sides of the waterway.

Iraq was thinking of Faw when it insisted on full application of a measure from the UN Security Council that demanded that the two countries withdraw to pre-war international boundaries as part of a ceasefire, the analysts said.

Iran also had Faw largely in mind when it halted at the UN measure.

"It was the most important card the Iraqis held" in the struggle for position over a possible peace settlement, the analyst said.

Strategy The Faw battle also broke Iraq's strategy of static defence, whereby Iraqi troops would sit behind formidable protection and wait for Iranian attacks.

The Iraqis, who invaded Iran in 1980, had stuck to that strategy since they were driven back across the border in 1981 — so much so that many analysts had doubted they were capable of mounting an offensive.

The Iraqis may have thought the same and let their guard drop.

Iraq's only significant assault into Iran in recent years was in May 1986, when its troops captured the deserted and weakly held border town of Mehran on the central front in retaliation for the loss of Faw.

World's worst nuclear power plant explosion

Chernobyl accident still haunts Europeans

By Girard C. Steichen

BONN, (AP): Two years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, vast herds of contaminated sheep remain isolated in Britain, people in Turkey still avoid their favourite home-grown tea and residents in West Germany continue to monitor radiation.

In several East European countries, where communist authorities frequently played down the effects of the accident, the construction of new nuclear power plants goes on at full speed.

The world's worst nuclear power plant accident occurred April 26, 1986. An explosion and fire split open a reactor in the Soviet Ukraine and sent clouds of radioactive debris into the atmosphere.

Carried by strong winds and exacerbated by heavy rains, radioactive fallout outside of the Soviet Union came down most heavily in Scandinavia, Poland, Britain and in southern West Germany.

The accident left 31 dead in the Soviet Union and thousands more were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation.

While the reaction was swift in most West European countries, severe lingering effects remain in many of the hardest-hit regions.

Effects In the lesser-affected areas, especially in southern Europe, officials report that after effects are now minimal and that the air and most foods contain acceptable radiation levels.

But in Turkey, tea drinkers have switched to imported tea. After the accident, many European governments returned Turkish tea and hazelnuts when

they were found to be contaminated beyond radiation levels established by the European Economic Community, the common market.

The Turkish government later said the tea had been destroyed, but recent press reports claimed that unscrupulous vendors had repackaged and sold the tea under different labels.

Authorities still restrict the movement and slaughter of 500,000 sheep on 750 upland farms in western Britain and Northern Ireland.

In Sweden, more than 30,000 reindeer were declared unfit for consumption this year because they contained unacceptably high levels of radiation caused by the accident. Last year, more than 75,000 animals were judged unfit for consumption.

Saved But the Swedes say their quick response to the accident saved the reindeer industry as a whole and the traditional lifestyle of Laplanders who raise them.

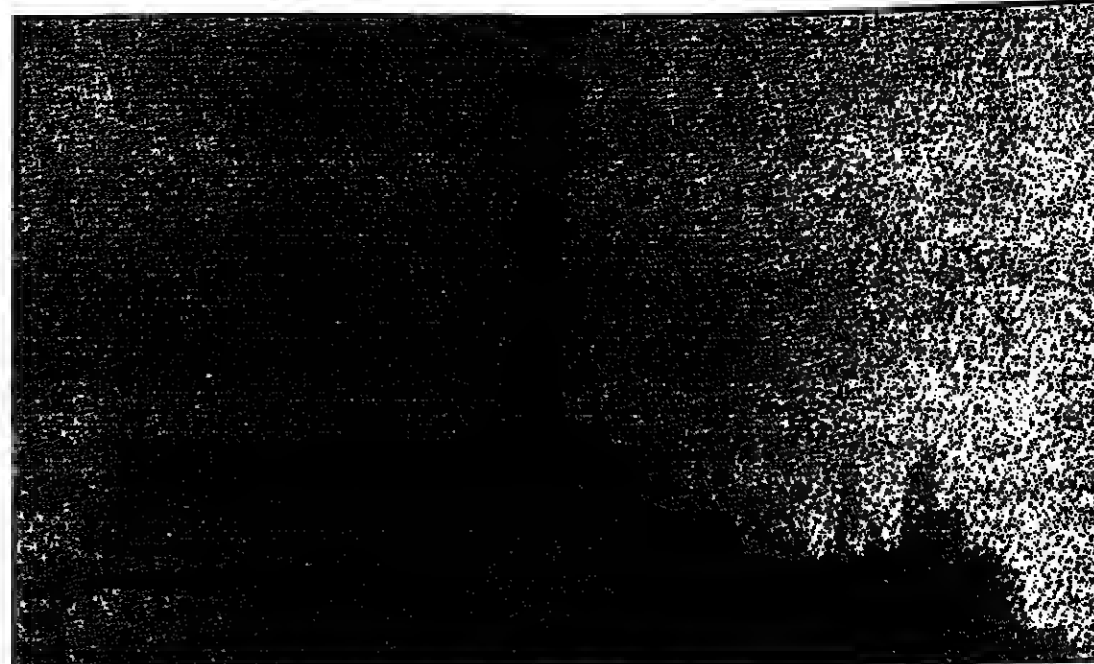
Officials in Norway say up to 5 per cent of reindeer meat in the hard-hit areas of that country still must be discarded.

While special feed designed to reduce the effects of radiation exposure for reindeer and sheep has helped, officials say the damage could linger for decades.

Radioactivity still exceeds British government standards in the Peaty, sheep-rearing hills of Cumbria, in north Wales, in south-west Scotland and parts of Northern Ireland, areas where heavy rains fell shortly after the accident.

British farmers have received the equivalent of more than £5.5 million (\$10 million) in government compensation.

In Austria and parts of south-



The first official Soviet picture of the damaged plant at Chernobyl

ern West Germany, substantial numbers of deer and wild boar are considered unsafe for human consumption and are no longer hunted. Mushrooms are also contaminated, and Austrian authorities urge citizens not to eat mushrooms more than twice a month.

Accidents The nationally-circulated West German magazine Der Spiegel, in its March 28 edition, reported that the number of highway accidents involving deer in West Germany has increased sharply since Chernobyl, in part because hunters concerned about radiation are no longer thinning the herds.

The political fallout continues to swirl in West Germany as government and opposition parties engage in a fierce debate over

the safety of nuclear power.

"Chernobyl made it clear to all of us that we have no adequate way to deal with a catastrophe of this magnitude," said Lieslott Blunck, a member of West Germany's opposition Social Democratic Party.

But Martin Gruener, a parliamentary state secretary for the ministry of environmental protection and reactor safety, said long-term adverse health effects are not likely in West Germany.

The Chernobyl accident has sparked no such debate in France, which led the fight against efforts in the European Economic Community to toughen radiation standards and where the environmental movement is weak.

But in Italy, the accident led, in

effect, to the scrapping of the nation's future nuclear power expansion programme.

In November 1987, the Italian electorate rejected nuclear power by a margin of 4-1.

Italy currently operates three nuclear power plants, all of which are temporarily closed for routine maintenance and reactor refuelling.

A fourth is in an advanced state of construction. In March, Premier Giovanni Goria decided to go ahead with completion of the plant, which angered Italy's Socialist Party and helped bring down Goria's five-party coalition.

In Switzerland, anti-nuclear and environmental activists last year submitted enough signatures to force two referendums on nuclear energy.

One referendum calls for a 10-year moratorium on construction of new nuclear power plants. The second deals with the scrapping of the nation's five nuclear power plants and on a ban on construction of new ones.

The referendums are not expected to come to a vote until at least 1990.

Construction Since Chernobyl, nuclear power plant construction has continued in several East European countries, including East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The accident continues to fuel efforts of anti-nuclear and environmental groups in Yugoslavia, East Germany and Poland, and their numbers remain small and they are often harassed.

But the Chernobyl disaster has also fostered more cooperation between East and West on nuclear issues.

A Soviet delegation visited Britain in March and the two nations have agreed to exchange safety-related information in addition to details of any major radiation leaks.

West Germany has provided technical safety assistance to East Germany and last year signed an agreement with the Soviet Union for joint efforts in developing nuclear power.

Most European countries continue to test for radiation in imported foods. Blanket bans on foodstuffs were lifted in 1986.

"Coffee, chocolates, meats, dairy products, cereals and baby foods are not admitted into the country unless they carry a certificate showing they've been tested for radioactivity," said a senior Greek Health Ministry official.

People leaving Hong Kong to start a new life abroad

By Chris Peterson

HONG KONG, (Reuters): The prospect of China resuming control of Hong Kong in 1997 is hitting hard at one of the prosperous British colony's most precious resources — people.

Despite confident sounds from senior officials, thousands of Hong Kong's Chinese residents are leaving to start a new life abroad, with Australia, Canada and the United States the favourite destinations.

Britain has ruled the south China territory with its spectacular harbour for 150 years, but China resumes control in 1997 under a 1984 agreement.

China's communist rulers promise the capitalist system which has made Hong Kong one of the world's busiest trading centres will remain unchanged for 50 years after the handover.

"I have to be practical — my parents already fled China once

in their lives. I want certain things for my family, so we have decided to go," said Alan, an architect emigrating with his wife and child to Canada, he did not want to give his full name.

Many of the colony's 5.6 million people found refuge here after fleeing periodic revolutionary upheavals in China over the past 40 years.

Emigration Hong Kong officials say they do not keep a record of the number of people emigrating, but estimate net population loss at between 15,000 and 20,000 a year. Governor Sir David Wilson has said the level of emigration has not changed much over the past 20 years.

Long queues of visa applicants outside the US, Australian and Canadian consulates and remarks by senior managers from major Hong Kong companies suggest a different picture.

Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd, a private firm of analysts, predicts about 50,000 people a year will leave Hong Kong in the run-up to 1997.

Another indicator comes from the colony's police force, which issues certificates on demand proving that a citizen has no criminal record. Most countries require such a document before accepting immigrants.

In 1986 the police issued over 53,000 certificates, an all-time record and up 50 per cent over the previous year. Officials said 1987 figures were still being collated but expected them to be even higher.

The consulates of Canada and Australia have reported a large boost in emigration from Hong Kong, as well as in applications.

Canada issued 22,000 emigrant visas to Hong Kong people last year, more than double the previous year. Australian officials predict well over a 50 per cent increase in emigrants this

year, to around the 8,500 mark. Criteria for entering the United States are stiff, and the number have remained constant over the past three years. But there are moves in the US Congress to allow a new category of immigrant, people willing to start a business in the United States creating jobs for at least 10 people.

A senior personnel manager at Hong Kong Company said middle-level Chinese executives were leaving in a steady stream to establish themselves abroad.

"We try and arrange a transfer to overseas branches for them, but it is becoming a major headache," he said.

Emigration plans are a frequent topic of conversation around dinner tables in Hong Kong, which has no natural resources other than people and the harbour.

Taboo The subject is still largely taboo in the public domain, although film director Clara Law has just completed a movie addressing emigration and 1997.

The other half and the other half" tackles the emotional problems of families separated while one partner heads overseas to establish him or herself, with the wife or husband following later.

The Chinese-language film is due out next month and Law said in a recent interview: "What I am trying to say in the film is that it is absurd to give up all you have at present for the sake of preparing for your future."

"Your future may not be as bright. I won't consider migration myself at the moment, although I've had many chances to go away."

"I have been to the United Kingdom studying, but I felt that you can't really share heart to heart with a foreigner. You miss food, family, the memories that you had and everything in Hong Kong," she said.

MIDEAST PUZZLE



Shooting of Robert Kennedy

Assassination files raise new questions

By Russell Snyder

SACRAMENTO, California. (UPI): It may be weeks before researchers can draw firm conclusions about the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy from the 50,000 documents, 2,900 photos and other pieces of evidence made public last week.

But already, the newly opened police files at the California state archives in Sacramento have spotlighted oversights and blunders by the Los Angeles police department in its investigation of the assassination almost 20 years ago.

The revelations include proof that police only 2-1/2 months after the shooting inexplicably turned 2,410 photographs collected by detectives — believed to be nearly half of all the pictures gathered during the investigation.

Kennedy assassination experts say their initial study of the files confirm that serious inconsistencies plague the police conclusion that Sirhan Sirhan acted alone when he shot Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel pantry on June 5, 1968.

The researchers — including historians, journalists and authors — say the files also suggest there were official efforts to mislead the public about the existence of evidence that could raise doubts about the case.

One high-ranking Los Angeles police department official with experience in sensational murder cases said it's easy for some evidence to be overlooked in the frenzy of a big case.

Pressure "There's a tremendous amount of pressure," said the official, who asked not to be identified. "Everyone's giving orders and people investigating have a high degree of paranoia."

Asked if he thought police could have stonewalled outside efforts to prove mistakes were made in the case, he said that "it's

possible."

"Before long, if a photo or something comes along that muddies your case, you keep it off to the side," he said. "They sure wouldn't make it available."

Critics say that's why police kept the files locked until now despite official promises since 1969 to make them public.

The files chronicle in numbing detail the events surrounding Kennedy's assassination shortly after he won California's Democratic presidential primary.

Moments after Kennedy spoke to cheering supporters in the hotel ballroom, he left the stage via the hotel's kitchen serving area. There, police say, Sirhan stepped up to the New York senator and began firing.

Witnesses Since there were so many witnesses to the shooting — one document names more than 70 in the pantry alone — and since Sirhan admitted killing Kennedy, the case appeared dramatically simple.

"It was an open-and-shut murder case," says Ed Davis, who supervised Sirhan's first interrogation. Davis became chief of police a month after police officially closed the "Special Unit: Senator" investigation in 1969.

"This was the classic murder case," says Davis, now a Republican state senator. "It happened to be of historic and international interest. We were probably more cautious than in any other case in the history of the department."

Even with Sirhan in custody, police were careful to track down possible conspiracy plots to kill Kennedy. The files show they investigated 25 conspiracy theories purporting to link Sirhan to groups ranging from the Black Panthers to the Teamsters Union. Police concluded the theories were without merit.

Even the famed account of a



Robert Kennedy

woman in the polka-dot dress, who two witnesses claimed ran from the hotel shouting "we shot him" was determined by detectives to be fabricated.

Yet, despite what appears to be a thorough investigation by police, some serious questions remain, researchers insist. They include:

● How close was Sirhan to Kennedy? Lab tests showed the fatal shot was fired 1 inch (2.5 cm) from Kennedy's ear. Not a single witness said Sirhan was that close.

● What was the trajectory of the bullets? Some evidence unearthed by researchers suggest all the shots couldn't have come from one gun.

● Why did police hinder efforts by researchers to find answers to questions?

Experts like Gregory Stone, a political scientist who played a leading role in pressuring police to release the files, say some of those questions may never be answered.

The reason lies in the revelation this week that police destroyed 2,410 photos taken during the case. It may never be known if the photos were important.

of the photos, says he doesn't remember the incident. But Keene, now a real estate salesman in Oregon, adds: "I guarantee you they were of no evidentiary value."

Another document that surfaced last week indicates police were sensitive to outside efforts to discredit their investigation.

In the mid-1970s, the Kennedy conspiracy controversy had reached a climax with the disclosure that police disposed of ceiling tiles, door frames and other evidence some researchers speculated could prove Sirhan did not act alone.

"They were ceiling tiles and that sort of thing that had no evidentiary value," Davis says. "They didn't have any powder burns on them or lead or anything. There's no point to keeping all that stuff."

Yet, a confidential memo written in 1974 by detectives and addressed to assistant chief Daryl Gates describes a secret photograph that "may conflict with previous statements made by the chief of police and other officials."

The photograph showed a bullet removed from Kennedy's body and one test-fired from Sirhan's weapon. The memo said the picture should not be released because, although the two bullets were clearly fired from the same weapon, this might not be immediately apparent to laymen.

Davis says he does not recall the memo. A spokesman for Gates, now Los Angeles Police Chief, declined to comment on the matter.

Critics say another oversight by police, confirmed by the files, is that investigators paid scant attention to an armed security guard standing near Kennedy.

The files show police never asked the guard, Thane Cesar, if he fired his gun although two witnesses recalled seeing him with gun in hand.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1532 — Suleiman I, Sultan of Turkey, invades Hungary and advances toward Vienna.
- 1607 — Captain John Smith lands at Cape Henry, Virginia, with first group of colonists who would establish permanent English settlement in America.
- 1798 — France declares war on Maria Theresa of Austria.
- 1807 — Russia and Prussia form alliance to drive France out of Germany.
- 1828 — Russia declares war on Turkey.
- 1860 — Spain and Morocco sign peace agreement.
- 1872 — Civil war breaks out in Spain.
- 1885 — Britain occupies Port Hamilton, Korea.
- 1886 — Major powers send ultimatum to Greece to halt support for revolution in eastern Rumelia.
- 1954 — United Nations powers meet at Geneva on Korea and Indochina problems during which they insist on free elections in Korea.
- 1962 — First international satellite is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida — a US-British venture.
- 1964 — African nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merge to form country of Tanzania.
- 1966 — Sidewinder missile, launched by US jet plane, shoots down first communist MiG-21 of Vietnam war.
- 1971 — White House commission recommends that China be brought into United Nations, with Nationalist China retaining its membership.
- 1987 — Tens of thousands of demonstrators throughout world march or hold silent vigils to mark first anniversary of disaster at Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear reactor.

By Frances D'Emilio

VENICE, Italy (AP): One of the world's most enchanting cities was born 15 centuries ago when some frightened citizens of the Roman Empire decided the 100-odd islands in the Gulf of Venice would make a handy refuge from barbaric invaders on the mainland.

Now their 20th-century descendants are fleeing in the other direction, abandoning the decaying lagoon city to hordes of tourists and real-estate speculators.

Ironically, the flight comes as two decades of intentions to rescue Venice from high tides and polluted waters seem close to becoming reality.

After spending billions of lire (hundreds of millions of dollars) provided under special national legislation, officials have come up with plans for movable dikes and sophisticated sewers to stop the lagoon's green-black waters from doing further damage.

The initiative took root after a disastrous 1966 flood, which prompted rallying cries of "Save Venice." Art lovers from around the world pitched in to rescue palaces, churches and paintings from the annual high tides that batter the city.

But no one came up with a "Save the Venetians" campaign.

Residents can stomach the stench of garbage from the canals, which serve as sewers as well as transportation arteries. They can put up with winter floods of water and summer floods of tourists. It's the lack of affordable housing that's forcing Venice's proud, seafaring natives to terra firma.

A report prepared by a provincial agency noted that in 1951, Venice had 175,000 people.

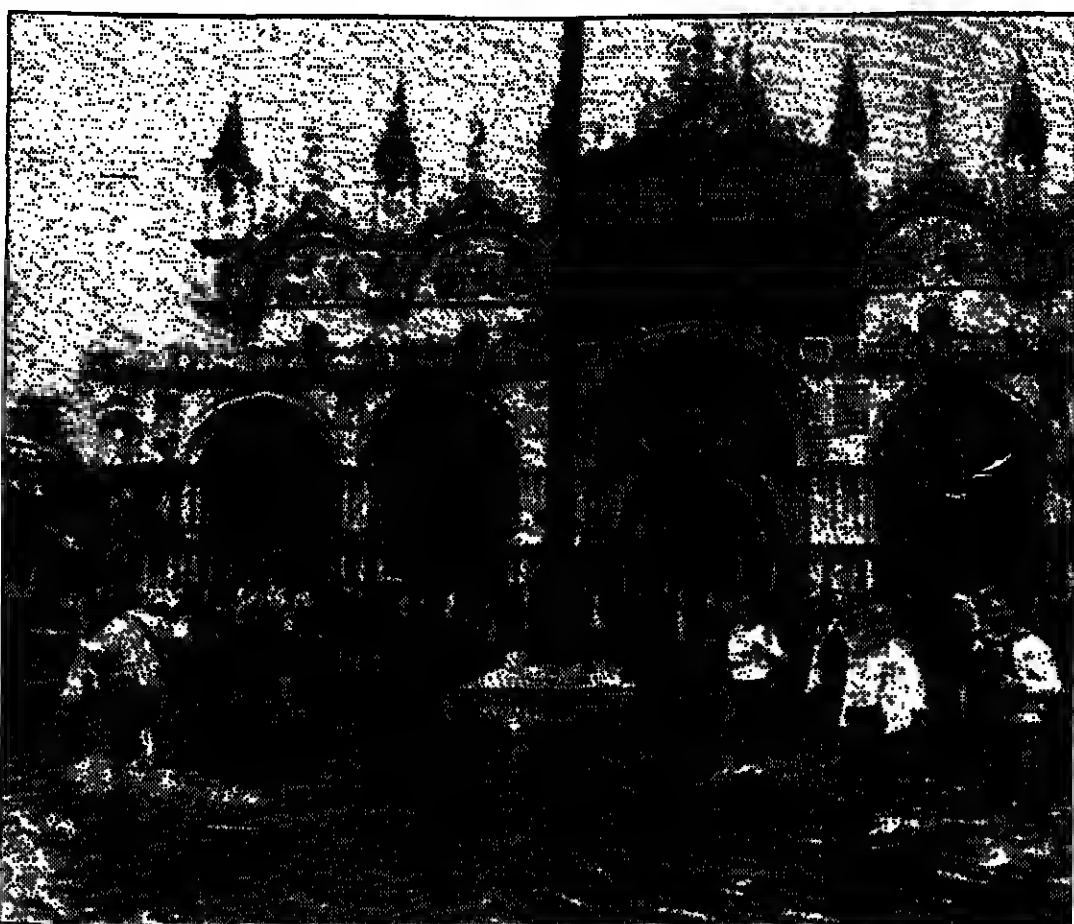
By 1960, 50,000 had left to escape overcrowding. By last year, residents had dropped to 83,000, with one-fifth more than 60 years old.

And the report predicted the population could shrink to as few as 20,000 by the year 2015. "If we go ahead at this rate, they'll be zero," said Giuliano Zanon, a Venetian who wrote the report.

Zanon said that if the city had developed a plan when the exodus began, they could have done something. But they didn't do anything.

Butcher shops, grocery stores, carpenters and plum-

Venetians abandon city to tourists and the wealthy



Decaying lagoon: Venetians wade through flood water, a common occurrence in winter.

bers have been closing their doors along the canals, the narrow, zigzagging streets. Popping up everywhere — sometimes four, five or six to a calle — are shops selling nothing but carnival masks, souvenirs of the Mardi Gras festivities that pack the city with visitors each winter.

The mask shops have become a symbol for Venetians, who say the loss of the city's natives is robbing the city of something precious.

"Venice's soul is emptying out. It's becoming a Disneyland, a spiritually poor one," said Gianluigi Casini, an architect who has helped restore canal-side palaces.

"When I was a boy, all the kids would be playing in the piazzas. Now there are few kids," said Casini, who at 34 is among the dwindling numbers of young Venetians.

"Only old people stay, those who can't go away. There are so many empty houses ... (yet) most of my friends have gone ... for lack of houses," said Casini, who lives with his parents in Santa Croce, one of Venice's six historic "sestieri," or districts.

Some of Casini's friends have moved to non-descript Mestre, just on the other side of the 2.5-mile (4-km) causeway that leads to Venice and which shares Venice's municipal government.

Mestre has mushroomed from a population of 50,000, when Casini was born to about 250,000, triple that of Venice's historic center. Several thousand residents commute to Venice for jobs as hotel maids, souvenir sellers or waiters.

Even some of Venice's famed gondoliers have moved to Mestre. Casini, who supplements his

architect's income by teaching art history in Mestre High School, said he can't afford Venice rents, running \$80,000 to 1.2 million lire (675 to 975 dollars) for a two-room apartment.

"I'd like to stay, but it's just not possible," he said, when asked about his future.

Numerous

Under the city's rent-control laws, apartments should rent for much, much less. But as elsewhere in Italy, landlords would rather keep apartments vacant than rent for the low legal price and hope for a buyer or someone desperate or rich enough to pay illegally high rents.

Some of the numerous uninhabited apartments along the Grand Canal are kept as weekend retreats by the rich, who

come from Milan, 267 kilometers (165 miles) away, or as vacation homes for foreigners, who spend at most a month a year here.

Other houses are in no condition for living. Waters lapping at the front door and sea breezes drifting by the balcony may inspire poetry, but flooding and salty sea air constantly wear away at foundations and beams.

Restoration, especially of historic buildings, is a costly enterprise anywhere, but in Venice it's particularly expensive.

Supplies arrive by barge, not trucks, and porters deliver them in small loads on carts in carless Venice. With many artisans among the exodus, skilled laborers must be brought in from the mainland. Costs of transportation — and tourists' spendthrift tendencies — also account for higher prices in stores.

Natives complain that a pair of shoes that goes for 50,000 lire (42 dollars) in Mestre sells for double that in Venice. Fruit and vegetables generally cost about 30 per cent more in Venice when compared with a Rome market.

Yet not all young Venetians are planning to leave. Gianfranco Tagliapietra, who runs a camera shop, said his teenage daughter is looking forward to growing up and making money in the tourist business.

Following the 1966 flood, tourism took off, perhaps inspired by the worry that Venice someday might be swamped for good by the high tides.

By the 1970s, real estate speculators started to move in, betting that the tourism boom would last. It became fashionable for big-name companies, like Fiat, to restore palaces for headquarters or exhibitions.

Recently elected Mayor Antonio Casellati says he would like to see a law that would force people who buy real estate to live in their purchase or to rent it for several years only to native Venetians. But he admits such a goal might be unreachable in a free-market society.

In the last few years, some young Venetians who wanted to stay in Venice have taken advantage of national and regional subsidized mortgages. The city bought up many buildings and rented them out.

"But the city can't buy all the houses," the mayor said.

By Fouad Hamdan

CAIRO — When the Egyptian anthropologist Ibrahim Abu-el-Aish founded his farm settlement called Sekem 10 years ago, sandy desert covered the 70 hectares of land some 50 kilometers north of Cairo near the city of Bilbeis.

Today, Sekem is an oasis of woods, stables, fields and round, rose-colored houses.

"To protect the fields from the desert, trees were planted all around," the 51-year-old Abu-el-Aish said. "Where there are trees, the birds come. So now we have a little Garden of Eden."

It was not easy to build Sekem, whose name in ancient Egyptian means "life force from the sun."

Just how difficult it would be to transplant anthroposophist ideas acquired in West Germany to a conservative, strongly Islamic Third World nation became clear to Abu-el-Aish when he used the phrase "biological-dynamic cultivation."

Local authorities thought that had something to do with chemical weapons and threatened to close the farm down.

But Sekem, probably the only anthroposophist farm in the Arab world, succeeded.

Now 160 people work there, including 13 German-speaking

Turning desert into a Garden of Eden

In an unusual marriage of ideas, an Islamic commune in Egypt has used an Austrian's philosophy to make the desert bloom.

Europeans. They live and work according to the ideas propounded by the Austrian-born philosopher Rudolf Steiner around the turn of the century.

At the center of the enterprise are Abu-el-Aish, his family and the Europeans. They believe in a "naturalistic, conscious and sensitive way of life."

Without using chemicals, they produce vegetables, fruit, cheese and tea that are sold as far away as West Germany. Demand has grown so great that another 1,000 hectares are being cultivated by outsiders using Sekem methods, and with quality control, packaging and distribution done by the farm.

Abu-el-Aish got the idea for Sekem during a trip through Egypt in 1975.

"The view of mass poverty and hopelessness shocked me," he remembers. "I didn't want to complain and write books about

how the Egyptians should solve their problems, but instead get involved and set an example."

After 20 years in West Germany, the pharmacist with a doctoral degree quit his job heading a research group and returned to Egypt "to help people by teaching."

Learning is one of the ideals that Sekem is supposed to embody. Work groups meet before work begins to compare notes and discuss plans.

Once a week, all gather in a large hall where "everything possible is discussed and debated," according to Klaus Fintelmann, a 60-year-old West German teacher who advises Abu-el-Aish on education issues.

"That way the workers learn to discuss their occupation and the people involved with it," he says.

"The subservient attitude has to be replaced by a person who can think critically," says Fintelmann, who visits Sekem regularly. "Our philosophy is to produce food and medicine with joy in order to further develop our consciousness. No one should be a master, everyone should be a servant of society."

Projects include a carpentry shop and a pottery now being built. Also planned are facilities for making clothes and weaving baskets.

It does not bother Abu-el-Aish, a faithful Muslim, that anthroposophy views Christianity as a central development in the history of humankind.

"The ideas of Rudolf Steiner are a philosophy, not a religion," he says. "What we have created here is an anthroposophy shaped by Islam, otherwise no one would have accepted us or our ideas about life."

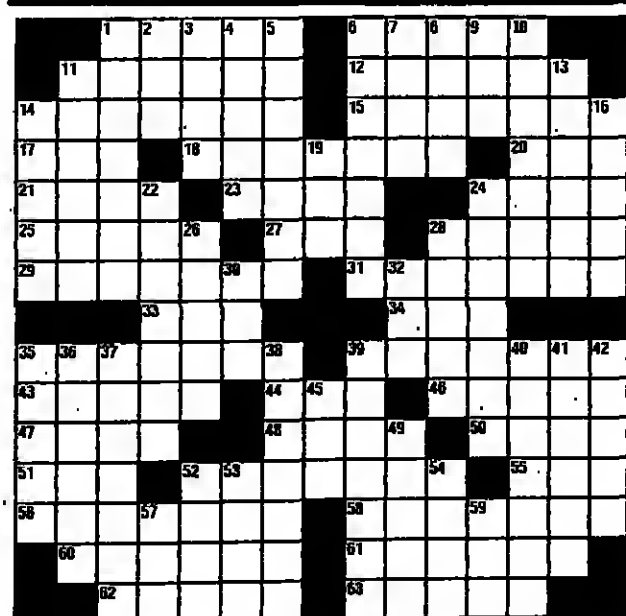
Abu-el-Aish's life's work has helped the native farmers in more than their personal development. As an unexpected side effect, those who have worked at Sekem have had better luck finding a partner in the Egyptian marriage market.

DPA Features



Ibrahim Abu-el-Aish (left), the man who founded an anthroposophic commune near Bilbeis, Egypt, discusses educational ideas in his green oasis with West German technical expert Klaus Fintelmann.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Narrow channel
 - Soothing salves
 - Narrow thais
 - eyes
 - Actress Strich
 - Sit on
 - Cervantes hero
 - Yes, to Yves
 - Civil court case
 - Got the decision
 - Practicas
 - Honshu brew
 - In the thick of
 - Construct
 - Vaau da —
 - Off-heard
 - Changa the wording
 - Well-instructed
 - Hawer
 - voyaga
 - Christian
 - Bell sounds
 - Skaters Heidan and Flaim
 - Teachers' org.
 - Turgenev heroína
 - Part of MIT
 - Actor Hackman
 - Grad of
 - Acroa
 - Actress Jillian
 - On high
 - Standoff
 - America's Cup sport
 - Earthenware dish
 - Seldom seen
 - Blue Jay's rival
 - Risk a ticket
 - Things to know, with "the"
- DOWN**
- Escorted
 - Calendar abbr.
 - Rivulet
 - Pizarro victims
 - In opposition to
 - Will item
 - Cast — (it's his)
 - Cafa au —
 - Blend
 - Frosty, for one
 - Equaliza
 - Principal dancer at the Paris Opera
 - Serious
 - Over
 - Emulate Tomba
 - Hasty mark
 - On pins and needles
 - City cruises
 - Rhona leader
 - Turkish topper
 - Box score abbr.
 - Greek letters
 - Frontons
 - Alfresco meals
 - Bookad
 - Building custodian
 - Certain legumes
 - Power source
 - Attira in Agra
 - Rocket or musket ending
 - A month, in Madrid
 - My majesty!
 - Previously
 - Hold on
 - Swimmer's measura
 - Seafood

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1. NARROW, 2. SOOTHING, 3. NARROW, 4. EYES, 5. ACTRESS, 6. SIT, 7. CERVANTES, 8. YES, 9. CIVIL, 10. GOT, 11. PRACTICAS, 12. HONSHU, 13. IN THE THICK OF, 14. CONSTRUCT, 15. VAU DA, 16. OFF-HEARD, 17. CHANGA, 18. WELL-INSTRUCTED, 19. HAWER, 20. VOYAGA, 21. CHRISTIAN, 22. BELL, 23. SKATERS, 24. TEACHERS, 25. TURGENEV, 26. PART, 27. ACTOR, 28. GRAD, 29. ACROA, 30. ACTRESS, 31. ON HIGH, 32. STANDOFF, 33. AMERICA'S, 34. EARTHENWARE, 35. SELDOM, 36. BLUE JAY, 37. RISK, 38. THINGS TO KNOW, 39. ESCORTED, 40. CALENDAR, 41. RIVULET, 42. PIZARRO.

DOWN: 1. OPPOSITION, 2. WILL, 3. CAST, 4. CAFE, 5. BLEND, 6. FROSTY, 7. EQUALIZE, 8. PRINCIPAL, 9. SERIOUS, 10. OVER, 11. EMULATE, 12. HASTY, 13. ON PINS, 14. CITY, 15. RHONA, 16. TURKISH, 17. BOX, 18. GREEK, 19. FRONTONS, 20. ALFRESCO, 21. BOOKAD, 22. BUILDING, 23. CERTAIN, 24. POWER, 25. ATTIRA, 26. ROCKET, 27. MONTH, 28. MY, 29. PREVIOUSLY, 30. HOLD, 31. SWIMMER, 32. SEAFOOD.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠83 ♥AQ7 ♦K983 ♣AQ76

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

Pass 3 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

A.—Beware, everything is against you! The vulnerability is unfavorable, you have the death holding, a doubleton, in the enemy suit, only three-card heart support with no intermediates, and partner is a passed hand. Act only if money means nothing to you; otherwise pass.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q872 ♥Q762 ♦8543 ♣7

Your partner opens the bidding with a forcing bid of two hearts. What do you respond?

A.—If you think you have a poor hand, you need to brush up on your hand evaluation. A singleton and four trumps to a high honor is a powerful holding opposite a demand bid. If you have some method of showing a singleton, do so; if not, we prefer a positive response of three hearts to a negative two no trump. Who cares about point count?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠963 ♥A8 ♦KQ7653 ♣A6

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♦ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Although partner is not showing much with his rebid except a six-card suit, your hand has become enormous. Your prime controls and three trumps are all good, so much so that we think a raise to three spades is an underbid. We would jump to four spades.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K5 ♥KJ8 ♦AQ7652 ♣K6

What is your opening bid?

A.—Despite your six-card suit, we suggest you open the bidding with one no trump. If you don't, you will have a difficult task ahead trying to describe your good, balanced hand. If you were to replace a low diamond with a low club, you would have had no qualms about opening one no trump. Where's the difference?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠7 ♥AJ954 ♦AK7 ♣9832

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—The one thing you can't do is rebid two hearts—that promises a six-card suit. Therefore, you have to choose between one no trump, with your singleton spade, or two clubs, with your rotten suit. Since partner might pass your second suit with only three-card support, we think one no trump is the lesser evil.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠8 ♥AK9762 ♦872 ♣AJ3

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

1 ♠ 2 ♦ 4 NT Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Why should partner be cue-bidding at the six-level when he could have done so at the three-level? The answer must be that he is not cue-bidding, but placing the contract. West must have taken advantage of the vulnerability to make a psychic bid. Pass. If you're wrong, simply remind partner that the Blackwood bidder is captain of the auction.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
There will be some confusion and uncertainty and you should try to take things easy. You should not do anything that is obviously contradictory. Avoid acting out of jealousy. Be more tidy.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You should think a little more constructively. The Moon's influence is likely to make you a little more dreamy. You have plenty of energy but you should not dissipate it. Be sensible.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
You should pay a little more attention to a personal matter. You will not be able to do just what you would like to do. Do not take things quite so personally. Be confident.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
You will have a little difficulty in dealing with a strange person. You will be inclined to drive too fast. Make sure you buy your tickets etc. well ahead of traveling. Be a little more flexible.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
Today you will be bubbling over with ideas, not all of them good ones. Your private life will be a little less involved. You should not take too much for granted. But grateful.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
Make sure you do not overture yourself. You will be able to deal with a problem that has been dogging you. Avoid asking for more than you deserve. Be frank.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You should keep your wits very much about you. The more favorable influence of Venus will help you to deal with an emotional problem. A lot depends on you; you should be more alert. Be tactful.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You should not take everything quite literally. You should be prepared to make a few concessions. Take a little more care of your health. Be more wary.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
Make sure you do not have too late a night. Avoid turning a bobby into an obsession. Do not try to evade the blame for something that is your fault. Show a little more understanding. Be careful.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You will be better able to meet your commitments. Make sure you are wearing the right clothes for the climate and the occasion. Eat a sensible diet. Be wary if you are not sure of yourself.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
Do your utmost not to create complications for yourself. You will be better able to deal with a delicate situation. You should endeavor to resist temptation. Be generous.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
Avoid giving vent to your feelings. You will be able to do something to improve your personal life. Do not expect to have your way in all things. Be reasonable.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior Readers,

A high school senior in Kuwait found some things printed in a textbook he was assigned to read for a course he was taking during the summer of a university in California which were uncomplimentary toward Arabs. He wrote the publisher and said that he thought the remarks were unfair to Arabs.

Although it took several months for a reply, he finally received a letter from one of the authors of the textbook saying the examples would be changed.

As you read textbooks, newspapers or magazines you should be aware of things that are written that are unfair to any nationality. And when you find such things written, do as this high school student did — write a letter and bring it to the attention of the publisher. Your letter could make a difference in what people learn and think about others.

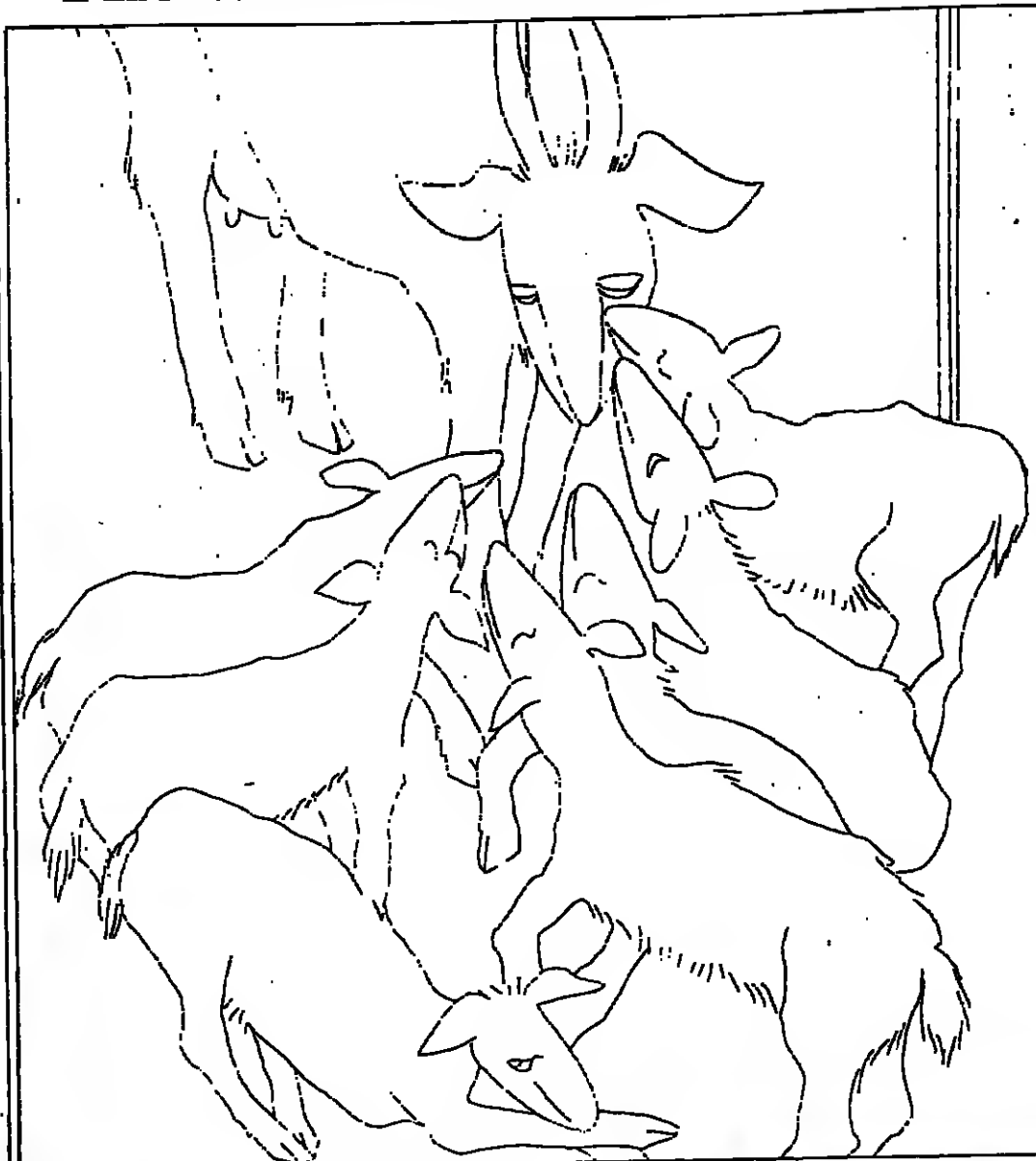
Aunt Barbara

Happy birthday



Aashish Ramesh Parmar (above left), Gurleen Arora (above right), Mariam Kazi Fateh Mohammed (below left) and Nija (below right) celebrated birthdays this month. Best wishes, Aashish, Gurleen, Mariam and Nija, from your families and friends.

The wolf and the seven kids



A GOAT had seven kids whom she loved dearly and guarded carefully against the wolf. One day when she had to go out for provisions, she called them all together and said, "Dear children, I must go and bring food. Beware of the wolf and don't let him in. Listen carefully, because he often tries to disguise himself. You will always be able to recognize him by his hoarse voice and black paws. Be watchful, for once he gets into the house, he'll eat you all up."

Then she left, and before long, the wolf stood at the door and called, "Dear children, open up, I'm your mother and I've brought back some lovely things for you."

But he had set his paws on the windowsill, and the seven kids saw them and said, "You are not our mother. None of her feet is black like yours. You are the wolf and we won't let you in."

The wolf went to a baker and said, "Cover my paws with freshly made dough." When the baker had done so, the wolf went to the miller and said, "Sprinkle white flour over my paws." The miller refused. "If you don't do it, I'll eat you up," said the wolf, and the miller was forced to do what the wolf asked. When the miller had finished, the wolf went back to the

house of the seven kids. He stood by the door and said, "Dear children, let me in. I am your mother and I have a present for each of you."

The seven kids first asked to see the wolf's paws, and when they saw that they were snow-white and heard how softly he spoke, they thought he was their mother and opened the door. The wolf came in. As soon as they recognized him, they hid quickly, as best they could. The first got under the table, the second into the bed, the third into the oven, the fourth ran into the kitchen, the fifth hid in the cupboard, the sixth slid under a big pot, and the seventh squeezed himself into the grandfather clock. But the wolf found all of them and swallowed them whole, except the youngest, hidden in the clock. He was saved.

Since the wolf had satisfied his appetite, he left and soon afterward the goat returned home. What a hue and cry! The wolf had been there and had eaten her children! She thought they were all gone until the youngest jumped out of the clock, and related how the tragedy had taken place.

In the meantime, the wolf, because he had eaten so much, took himself off to a green meadow, lay down in the sunlight and fell fast asleep.

The old goat thought that, somehow, she might still save her children, and so she said to the youngest kid, "Take some yarn, a needle and a pair of shears, and follow me."

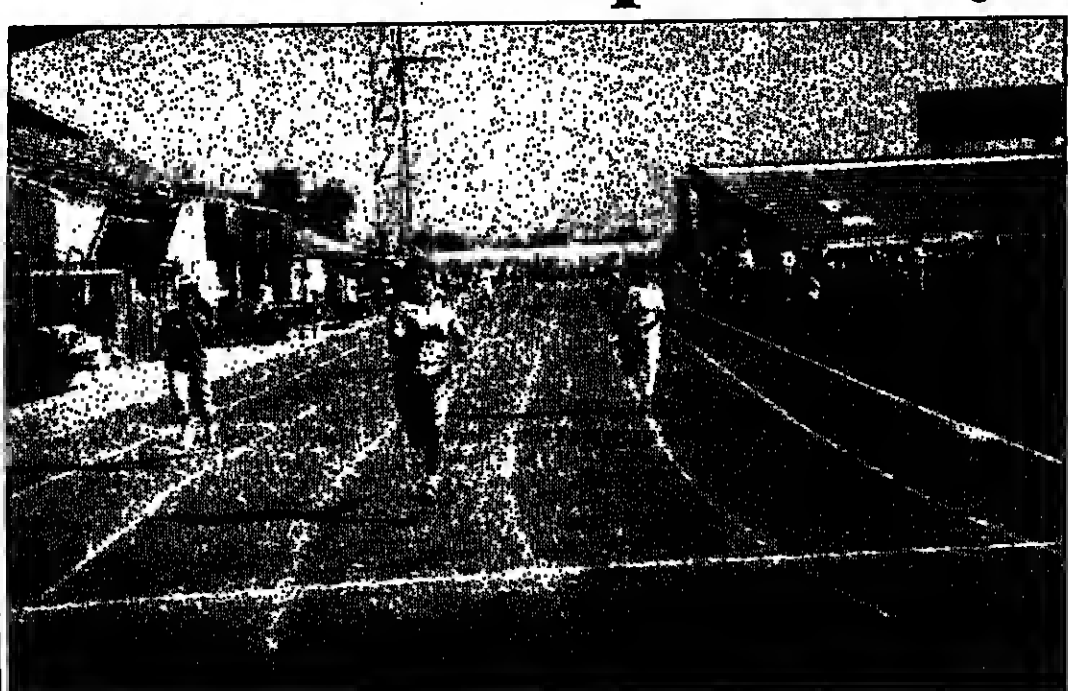
She went out in search of the wolf and found him snoring in the meadow. "Here he lies, the horrid wolf, after having eaten my six children for an afternoon snack," she said, as she inspected him carefully from all sides. "Let me have the shears. If only they are still alive inside him."

Then she cut open his stomach and the six kids, which in his greed the wolf had swallowed whole, sprang out unharmed. The goat told them to go at once and find some heavy stones. Then they filled the wolf's stomach with the stones, sewed him up and hid themselves behind some hushwood.

When the wolf had had his sleep, he awoke, but he felt so heavy that he said, "All this rumbling and grumbling inside me, what can it be? I only ate six kids."

He thought perhaps a drink of fresh water would help him and went off to the spring. But when he bent down to drink, he lost his balance because of the heavy stones within him and plunged headlong into the water.

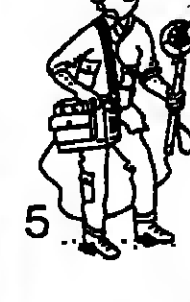
UAS holds sports day



Universal American School held the annual sports day with 1000 students participating. Picture shows high school students taking part in one of the track events.

Sound effects

Which of these six sound recordists is the only man to be fully equipped and what are the details missing from the other five?

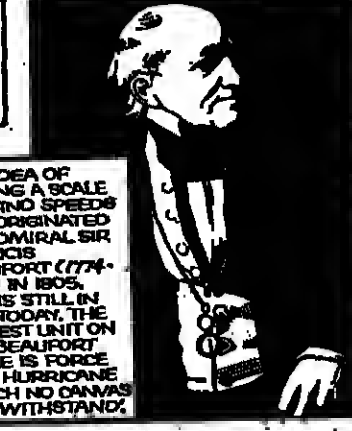
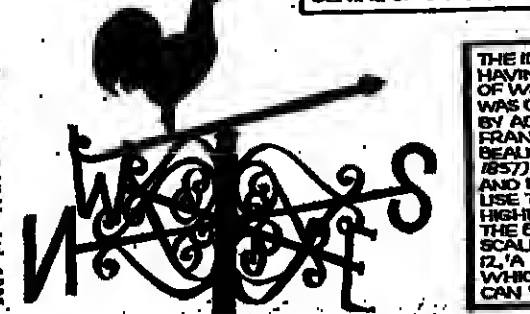


Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

IN EARLY REFERENCES THE WINDS WERE NAMED AFTER DEITIES. IN ATHENS, ANDRONICUS OF CYPRUS (1ST CENT BC), THE GREEK ASTRONOMER, BUILT AN OCCASIONAL MAPLE TOWER CALLED THE TOWER OF THE WINDS OR HOROLOGION. EACH FACE IS DECORATED WITH A FRIEZE OF FIGURES TO REPRESENT THE EIGHT PRINCIPAL WINDS. EACH DEITY APPROPRIATELY DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER WITH WHICH THEY ARE ASSOCIATED.

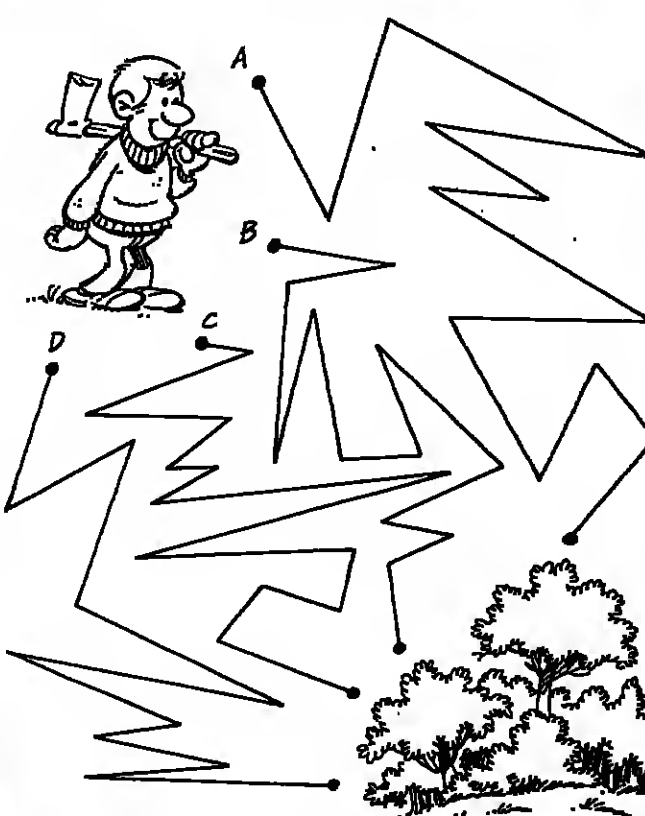


THE WEATHER COCK WAS ADOPTED BY THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 9TH CENTURY. THE CHOICE OF SYMBOL IS INTENDED AS A PERPETUAL REMINDER OF THE COCK WHICH CROWED AT PETER'S DENIAL OF CHRIST.



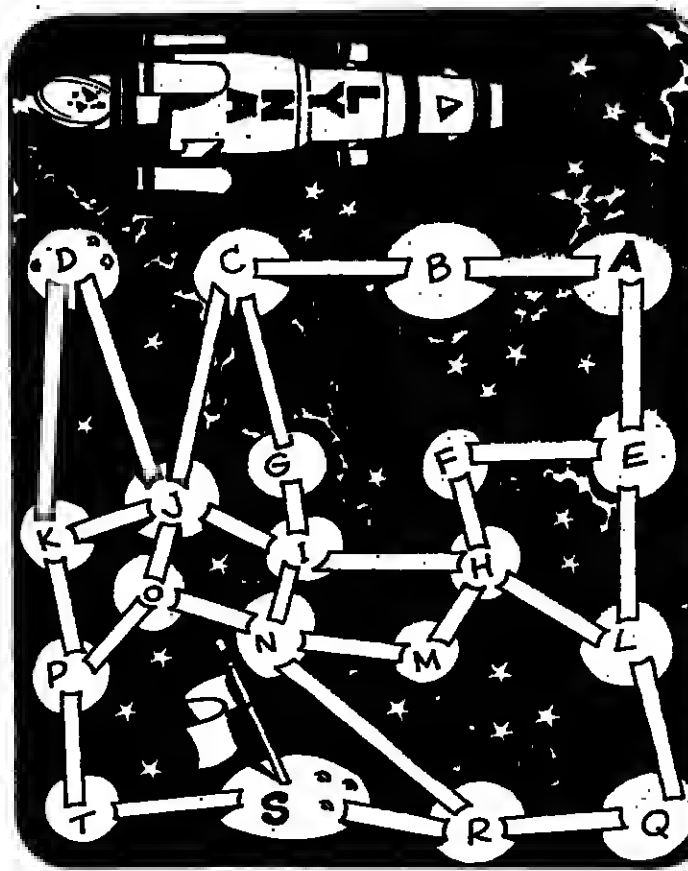
Shortcomings

Which of the paths A, B, C or D is the shortest way to the woods?



Spaced out

Leaving from planet A, what is the shortest way to reach planet S by going through an even number of passages?



Cross reference

The object is to discover which letter of the alphabet each number in the diagram represents. Repeat the starter letters wherever their respective numbers occur; this should give you enough clues to start guessing at likely words.

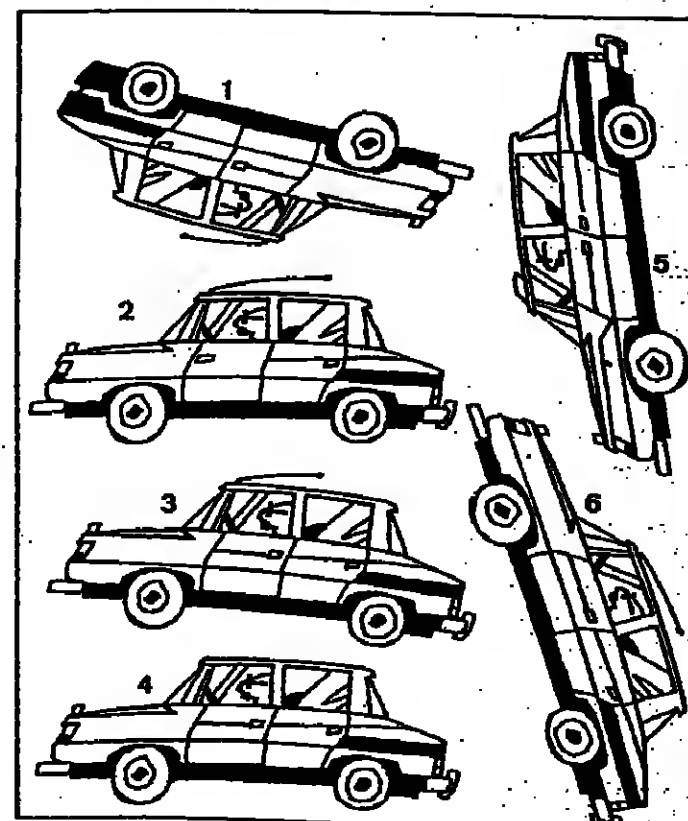
A	15	2	9	22	18	3	N
B	25	6	4	13	25	7	O
C	13	16	21	4	12	9	P
D	24	4	8	2	20	12	Q
E	8	1	28	4	8	11	R
F	7	10	15	9	28	2	S
G	15	20	3	2	8	7	T
H	28	2	11	20	13	1	U
I	23	6	2	28	11	2	V
J	17	9	20	23	8	6	W
K	24	11	7	25	20	28	X
L	13	11	9	15	7	2	Y
M	2	5	7	8	7	3	Z

REFERENCE GRID

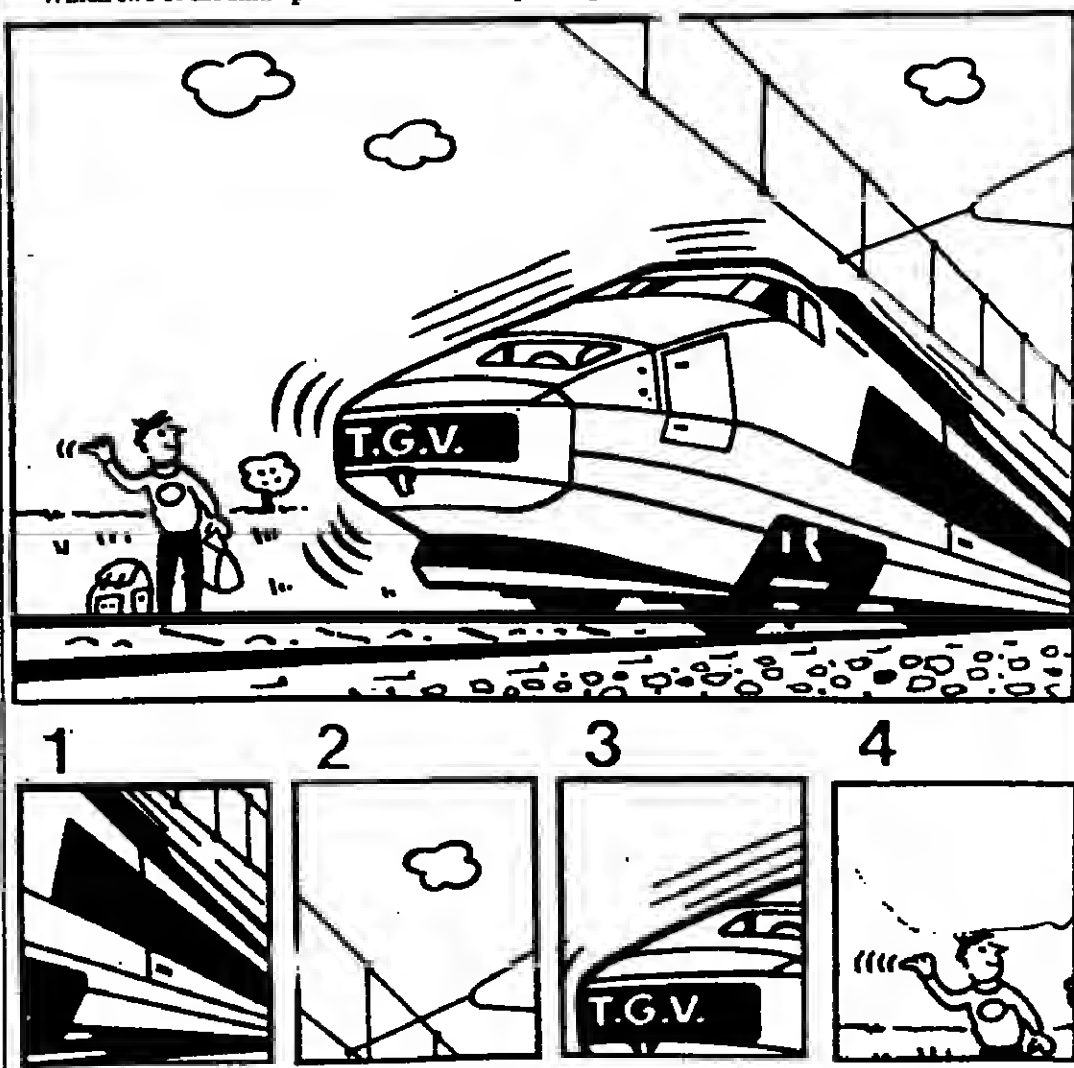
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Pile up pair

Which two cars are identical?



Hitchy feet
Which two of the small pictures are exact copies of parts of the large picture?



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Amoco gas, foreign operations set for growth

ACQUISITION of Dome Petroleum Ltd., Calgary, will make Amoco Corp. the largest owner and producer of gas reserves in North America.

However, it is inevitable that an increasing portion of Amoco's upstream investment will be going into areas outside North America, the company told security analysts in Boston.

Amoco figures place the company's total North American gas production at 2,636 bcf in 1987 from reserves of 15,825 tcf as of last Dec 31. An Amoco subsidiary expects to close its \$5.5 billion acquisition of Dome by midyear.

"Natural gas is an abundant energy resource on this continent and should be viewed as the cornerstone of North American energy security," said Amoco Chairman Richard Morrow.

Plentiful

"Opportunities to expand supply are plentiful, the cost is reasonable, and gas can be produced and consumed with little impact on the environment."

Amoco's challenge is to continue to replace production, said H. Laurence Fuller, president. The company replaced worldwide production of 4.7 billion bbl of oil equivalent the past 10 years.

Amoco will continue to explore and produce in areas where it is operationally strong, such as mature U.S. and Canadian basins.

Foreign operations probably will account for an average of more than 50 per cent of Amoco's total upstream spending during the next 5 years, compared with an average of 34 per cent during the past 20 years, Fuller said.

For example, Amoco was one of the most successful in the 10th round of U.K. offshore licensing. It was awarded six licences covering more than 800 sq km.

Yugoslavia and Albania to sign border trade pact

BELGRADE, April 25, (Reuters): Yugoslavia and neighbouring Albania will sign a border trade agreement in Belgrade, the Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug said yesterday.

Albania, a Communist-ruled country long closed to almost any form of foreign contact, signed a border trade agreement with Greece last week. Diplomats said the agreements were signs of the country's slow opening to the outside world.

The agreement states that border trade should make up 20 per cent of overall bilateral trade, Tanjug said. This amounted to only \$63 million in 1987, due to a drought in Albania which prevented it from meeting its contracts, according to Tanjug.

Tanjug said border trade was one of the forms of cooperation proposed at the first-ever meeting of Balkan foreign ministers in Belgrade last February, in which Albania participated.

Non-Opec Mexico, China agree to cut exports

Prospects uncertain for oil talks

VIENNA, April 25, (Reuters): When Opec meets producers from outside the organisation in Vienna this week, the chances that their unprecedented talks will produce effective steps to boost oil prices are uncertain, analysts say.

They also say they are unsure whether the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) can still call the shots on oil prices, and pointed to the fact that Opec called this week's meeting with seven non-Opec producers as a sign of its limits.

The seven non-Opec producers invited to Tuesday's talks — Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman — met recently in London to discuss ways of boosting the market.

Between them the seven

produce a little over eight million barrels per day (bpd), of which they export about half.

Oil prices this year have been as much as \$4 a barrel below Opec's reference price of \$18. A key reason is that producers are pumping more oil than the rest of the world wants.

"The meeting must give an indication that there will be some sort of production cut in order to keep oil prices up," Dillard Spriggs, of Petroleum Analysis Ltd, said in New York.

"But I don't think the statement they make will have much meat on it," he added.

One reason, London stock-brokers Phillips and Drew suggest in a recent report is that any pumping slowdown non-Opec producers offer — the report says an offer of a five per cent produc-

tion cuts is likely — will be conditional on Opec support.

That may not come immediately.

"The most likely scenario for Opec is to say they will continue talks with non-Opec producers and if they need to change quotas they will do so at the full ministerial meeting in June," said Vahan Zanooyan of Petroleum Finance Co.

Output

Opec's 13 members normally meet in Vienna in June and December to study the market and decide on any changes in production levels they think necessary to boost prices.

And then there is the question of what Opec will cut.

Opec pumped an estimated 17.4 million bpd in March, well above its overall output ceiling of

15.06 million bpd agreed last December, industry sources said.

That agreement excluded Iraq which refused to sign the production pact as it wanted parity with its Gulf war foe Iran. Iraq pumps around 2.5 million bpd, the sources estimated.

Changes

"Will Opec cut from its quota levels, or down to its quota level?" said Sarah Emerson, an analyst with the US-based firm Energy Security Analysis Inc.

"The talks are aimed at stringing the market along but at some point fundamentals will take hold ... prices will reflect oversupply," she said.

The April 26 and 27 Opec/non-Opec talks are due to be followed on April 28 by a "consultative conference" of all 13 Opec members which could reconvene as an

emergency meeting and approve changes in production levels, oil analysts said.

But producers like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates are known to oppose cuts in quotas, they said.

Opec 'hawks' Iran and Algeria have favoured cuts but Iran recently seems to have softened its stance, they added.

Non-Opec Mexico and China have said they are willing to cut exports if an agreement can be reached with Opec, while Norway also outside the organisation, has said it will continue curbs on its output.

Major non-Opec producers Britain and the United States, however, have not been invited to Tuesday's meeting. They have often said they are unwilling to interfere with market forces.

Travel agencies also thriving as tours become cheaper

Europeans going to US in record numbers

FRANKFURT, April 25, (AP): Spurred by the low dollar and cheaper air fares, Europeans from Scandinavia to Spain are rediscovering the new world and are expected to set a new record this year for US visits.

Tourist visa applications are flooding US consulates across Western Europe, and tour operators say the number of bookings is sharply up from last year's record.

"The numbers (of visa applicants) are increasing dramatically," said Ira Levy, chief of the non-immigrant visa branch at the US embassy in London.

Donald Mudd, chief of consular services at the US consulate in Frankfurt, said the consulate issued about 600,000 tourist visas last year.

"We expect a 30-50 per cent rise this year and this pretty much reflects the rest of Western Europe," Mudd told the Associated Press.

The Association of European Airlines, which includes 21 major airline companies, said the total number of Europeans flying to the United States has increased about 48 per cent since 1985.

According to the latest statistics available to the Brussels-based Association, 7.2 million Europeans took flights to the United States from January to October 1987.

Officials across Western Europe polled by the AP said the first two months of this year indicate that 1988 will be a boom year for travel to the United States.

Britain and West Germany

provide the bulk of tourists visiting the United States and the two countries are expected to combine for nearly 2 million US trips this year.

Levy said the number of non-immigrant visas issued in Britain for the United States was expected to reach 900,000 this year from 642,000 in 1987.

January this year saw a 69-per cent increase in issued non-immigrant visas over January 1987, and February figures rose 66 per cent over the same month last year, Levy said.

Flourishing

Sheila Beecham, owner of the American Round-Up, a travel agency in Hemel Hempstead, near London, said her business was flourishing.

"Things are doing very well. The growth in America travel

because of the dollar recently is tremendous. In the last three months I've had the same amount of business as all last year," said Mrs. Beecham, whose agency specialises in adventure vacations to the Western states.

In West Germany, where the dollar has dropped 50 per cent in three years and now is worth about 1.69 marks, travel agencies are also thriving as US tours become cheaper.

"We had 124,000 (US) bookings last year and the trend this year is continuing to go up. Our January figures are 25 per cent over last January's when we had 25,705 bookings," said Rolf Neilsen of Deutsches Reisebüro, a travel agency which holds the largest share of the US market in West Germany.

The Swiss are also frequent

international travellers: 235,000 of them visited the United States last year, a 27-year per cent increase over 1966. A further rise is expected this year.

"The United States has come within reach of a clientele that earlier would not have been able to afford it," said Hermann Amrhein of the Kouni Travel Agency in Zurich.

Reason

"The dollar was certainly the primary reason but there are also the attractive Trans-Atlantic airfares. Paying less than 1,000 Swiss francs (\$715) for a flight is very advantageous in terms of distance, compared to airfares inside Europe," he said.

In Greece, a Pan Am official in Athens said bookings for US destinations were up 30 per cent this year compared with 1987.

Oteiba to miss Opec meeting

ABU DHABI, April 25, (Reuters): United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba will miss Tuesday's Opec meeting in Vienna with non-Opec producers, oil sources said yesterday.

They said it would be the first time since he was appointed 20 years ago that Oteiba had not attended a full meeting of Opec.

The sources cited health reasons for his absence and said he would be represented by his undersecretary, Al Shaiba Al Hamili, at the talks to discuss ways to prop up oil prices.

More restructuring needed

Brighter outlook for world steelmakers

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 25, (AP): The world's biggest steelmakers said yesterday that years of restructuring, marked by massive layoffs and a search for new products and technologies, have improved the outlook for their sector.

At a board of directors meeting of the International Iron and Steel Institute, they said the industry's outlook is positive but that more restructuring was needed.

IISI chairman David M. Roderick, who is also head of USX Corp., the largest US steelmaker, said American producers have restored "competitiveness" by extensive restructuring, spinoffs of marginal operations ... and major efforts to develop and defend steel markets.

Research

A joint research programme of US steel and car makers has shown steel to be "the most economic material" for use in cars, he said.

While plastics were once thought to be cheaper in a production of fewer than 100,000 cars a year, tests at US car plants have shown steel to be "the most competitive material" in a production of as low as 35,000 cars, he said.

Jan D. Hooglandt, head of

Holland's Hoogovens Group BV and an IISI vice president, said since 1980 there have been significant job losses and production cuts.

As a result, "the outlook for steel remains positive in Europe (although) further restructuring is required," he said.

Hiroshi Saito, head of Japan's Nippon Steel Corp., said new technologies are reducing output costs and surplus production capacity.

Operations

He said Nippon Steel has invested in technologies that reduce some production operations from several days to a few minutes.

Also "new products have been introduced to the market" with new characteristics, including "vibration and noise suppression, electromagnetic shielding and decorative functions," he said.

Steel makers across the world have in recent years cut output and their work forces. In the United States alone, 216,000 steel workers — 55 per cent of the work force — have been laid off since 1981, Roderick said.

The IISI estimates 1988 world steel demand to reach 764 million metric tons, 10 million tons over

1987 and 39 million tons more than in 1986. The 1988 rise in demand follows a 4-per cent jump in 1987 consumption.

Producers in the IISI survey account for 59 per cent of 1987 world production and about 97 per cent of world output excluding the Soviet Union and other East bloc countries, China and North Korea.

The March output increase was led for the third consecutive month by the United States where output rose 19 per cent to

7.95 million tons.

The European Economic Community's production rose by 3.7 per cent (to 11.65 million tons). Japan's rose by 9.8 per cent (to 8.77 million tons) and South Korea recorded a 29 per cent jump in output (to 1.59 million tons).

In the first quarter of 1988, steel output of the non-Communist nations rose by 14 per cent to 116.7 million tons compared with the same period of 1987, the IISI said.

Rising pay for US corporate elite angers some labour leaders

NEW YORK, April 25, (Reuters): The annual pay of America's corporate elite soared by 48 per cent last year, angering some labour leaders and raising questions about the propriety of salaries that reach into the millions.

The average compensation for the two top executives at 339 US firms surveyed by the magazine Business Week was \$1.8 million.

Jim Manzi, the 36-year-old chairman of the computer software firm Lotus Development Corp., topped the list with 1987 salary and stock options of \$26.3 million.

Chrysler Corp chairman Lee Iacocca, even after \$6 million pay cut, was ranked second with \$17.9 million, a figure that led United Auto Workers vice president Marc Stepp to call Chrysler "selfish, greedy and insensitive."

Six other top executives earned more than \$10 million last year.

But is anybody worth that much?

"Nobody's bothered by what Bill Cosby or Michael Jackson make," said Kevin Murphy, a University of Rochester business professor. TV star Cosby, Forbes magazine has estimated, ear-

ned some \$57 million last year.

"But that's because people are acutely aware that they're being paid for their performance," Murphy told Reuters. "Cos (chief executive officers) are important, too, and can make firms swing in value by billions of dollars."

"And their high payments are often paltry compared to the gains for the company they make. I don't think Iacocca deserves even a small fraction of the flak he gets, if you consider the money that's gone to shareholders since he took over," he said.

High

But, said Wharton Business School professor David Larcker, "it's very difficult to know what the appropriate level of compensation for a chief executive is. There is no benchmark price."

Back in 1950, when Business Week's executive pay survey first appeared, the president of General Electric Co had the highest pay package totalling \$277,000. By 1960, General Motors Corp's chairman led the list at \$670,350, as he did in 1970, with \$790,000.

Lost in the debate over who gets what and what is too much, some analysts say, is the whole idea of how executive salaries are

determined.

"I'm a great believer in high pay for high performance," said Graef Crystal, a professor at the Berkeley Business School in California. "What bothers me is that accompanying this high pay for high performance ought to be high risk," he said.

"The real abuse may lie with someone making a scant \$2 million to \$3 million a year but who has delivered zilch to shareholders," Crystal said. "That's the guy you should be hanging from the lightpole."

Of the 25 top-paid executives surveyed by Business Week, all but two got most of their money by cashing in stock options at prices fixed previously and often far below the current value of the shares.

Options

"Accountants have been holding a sale of (executive) stock options since 1950s," said Crystal. "People have concluded that you can grant these options and don't have to charge your earnings one nickel," he said.

But, he added: "In effect, by giving a stock option, you have sold stock for less than it was worth, and anytime you sell property at a discount, you must incur some cost."

World Business Summary

Inflation-linked pay rises planned for Turkey

KONYA, Turkey, April 25, (Reuters): Turkey plans to give all civil servants and public sector employees inflation linked pay rises every six months from July, a cabinet minister said yesterday. "We will never let our civil servants and workers be drowned by inflation," State Minister Abdullah Tenekci told reporters in the central city of Konya. The new system, likely to dampen widespread trade union-led unrest, will start on July 1. Tenekci, quoted by the Anatolian News Agency, did not say which inflation rate would be used to calculate new rises — consumer price inflation currently running at an annual rate of 70 per cent or wholesale inflation, now 65 per cent. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's government has ordered rises of up to 10 per cent on prices of many state-controlled goods and services since November to cut a ballooning budget deficit.

Trade unions have threatened mass strikes from May unless wages are brought into line with inflation and the minimum monthly salary of 74,500 lira (\$60) is raised.

The average monthly wage for a factory worker is 90,000 lira (\$72) and a middle to senior ranking civil servant can expect to take home about 500,000 lira (\$400).

French managers accused of high-tech exports to Moscow

PARIS, April 25, (Reuters): Two former heads of France's leading manufacturers of industrial equipment have been charged with breaking a Western ban on exporting sensitive technology to the Soviet Union, legal officials said on Thursday. They said Jean-Paul Chamontou, the former chairman of Machine Franchise Lourde (MLF) and Louis Tardif, ex-chairman of subsidiary Force-Line, were accused last week of "supplying the agents of a foreign power with information." Two chief executives working for the two firms were arrested on the same charges. The four men have been remanded in custody. The arrests followed a long police investigation into the firm's activities, the officials said.

The Western trade watchdog body Cocom asked the French government last year to account for shipments of modern propeller-milling machines to the Soviet Union in the mid-1970s by the firm-line, then called ratier forest.

The request came after Japanese computer giant Toshiba, itself facing international condemnation for selling technology allowing Moscow to build quieter nuclear submarines, said ratier forest had made similar sales several years before.

The officials said recent sales by the two French firms were also being investigated.

Cocom (the Coordinating Committee for Multinational Export Controls), which groups Japan and all Nato members except Iceland, draws up lists of strategically useful technology and tries to prevent its export to Warsaw Pact countries.

US hotel chain quits S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, April 25, (Reuters): The US Westin Hotel chain said last week it was joining the list of foreign companies leaving South Africa by ending a contract to manage Johannesburg's best-known hotel, the Carlton. Hotel general manager Patrick Kelly said the departure of Westin Hotels and resorts from South Africa came in response to rising pressure from the US anti-apartheid lobby. "It was not Westin's desire to pull out," Kelly, a Westin employee, told a news conference. "In recent months the anti-South Africa sentiment has increased substantially in the United States," Kelly said, adding "we can't avoid it any longer." The 670-room hotel's South African owners, Anglo American Properties Ltd, will keep it open, although Carlton has lost money for the past three years and its 1987 room occupancy rate was just 47 per cent. Like most major South African hotels, the Carlton, which towers over central Johannesburg, accepts guests of all races. More than 140 US companies have withdrawn from South Africa over the past two years, including such giants as International Business Machines Corp., General Motors Corp., Coca-Cola Co. and Eastman Kodak Co. About 160 American companies still operating in South Africa are under increasing pressure to leave because of the country's apartheid race policies. A new bill drafted by West Virginia Congressman Bob Wise seeks to force all US oil companies out of South Africa. Sanctions have cut US trade and Japan has supplanted the United States as South Africa's biggest trading partner.

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Just press the buttons, you'll get cash on the spot.
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- * A mini statement
- * Placing an order for a new cheque book
- * Balance enquiry

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LONDON (Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	PRICE	TIME
ABBEY LIFE	265.0		
ADT LTD	113.0		
ALD LYONS	396.0		
AMSTRAD	158.0		
ARGYLE GP	199.0		
ASDA GP	72.00		
BAK PP	89.89		
BTR	245.00		
BAT INDS	417.0		
BARCLAYS	435.0		
BASS	840.0		
BEAZER	177.0		
BEECHAMS	459.0		
BERRIFORD	290.0		
BICC PLC	318.0		
BLUE ARROW	117.0		
BLUE CIRC	425.0		
BOC GP	370.0		
BOOTS CO	223.0		
BPS INDS	277.0		
BR COMW	282.0		
BR AIRWAY	158.0		
BR AEROSP	409.0		
BR GAS RG	176.0		
B.P.	268.0		
B.P. NEW	73.0		
BR TELECOM	246.0		
BRIT OIL	512.0		
BUNZL	140.0		
BURMAN OL	547.0		
BURTON	242.0		
CABLESWIR	311.0		
CADBURYS	291.5		
COATS VTY	235.0		
CORN UNI	327.0		
CORIS GOLD	890.0		
COSKOWS	540.0		
COURTAULD	353.0		
DALGETY	288.0		
OEE CP	190.0		
OILWAYS	172.0		
ENIG CHINA	408.0		
ENTER OIL	378.0		
F&I BARCK	121.0		
FERRANTI	79.0		
GEN ACCIO	913.0		
GEN ELEC	152.0		
GLAXO	948.0		
GRANDADA	333.0		
GLOBE	134.0		
GLYNED	457.0		
GRAND MET	483.0		
GUARD RYL	908.0		
GUINNESS	294.0		
GUINNESS	293.0		
HAWKINS	569.0		
HUNTER SID	470.0		
HILLSDOWN	285.0		
ICI	977.0		

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DATS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
FT 30 IND	1412.1	1411.6	1425.4	1373.3
FT 500 SHR	0	1015.8	1015.8	957.6
FT ALL SHR	0	920.88	923.67	870.22
FT GOV SEC	0	90.26	91.01	88.49
FT GOV MN	0	205.7	208.6	302.1
FT NINES F	0	448.51	449.04	432.96
FT OIL	0	1811.5	1848.1	1768.7
FT MLD OLR	128.66	128.61	129.99	115.04
FT MLD STG	100.93	100.44	100.99	90.79
FT MLD LOC	112.26	111.94	112.29	99.08

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS TURN MIXED BY SLUGGISH MIDSESSION
LONDON, APRIL 25, REUTER - SHARE PRICES WERE MIXED BY MIDSESSION, HAVING DIPPED BACK QUICKLY FROM THE OPENING HIGH. DEALERS SAID EARLY BUYING ON THE BACK OF WALL STREET'S FRIADAY GAIN AND TOKYO'S WEEKEND RISE SOON RAN OUT OF STEAM AS INVESTORS LOOKED FORWARD TO FRIDAY'S MARCH U.K. TRADE FIGURES.
AT 1122 GMT THE FTSE 100 INDEX WAS UP 2.6 TO 1,412.2, AFTER A HIGH OF 1,417.9 AT 0900 GMT AND A LOW OF 1,399.1 AT 0940 GMT. DEALERS ANTICIPATE TRADING WILL REMAIN DIRECTIONLESS UNTIL FRIDAY UNLESS TOMORROW'S U.S. FIRST QUARTER GNP SURGE PROVIDES A DRAMATIC SURPRISE. DEALERS ARGUE ANY SURGE IN U.S. GNP COULD HIT U.S. BONDS, DEPRESSING WALL STREET AS A RESULT.
RTZ SHARES SETTLED 14P HIGHER AT 380 AFTER 382 ON NEWS IT IS TO SELL ITS OIL AND GAS SUBSIDIARY TO ELF ACQUITTAIN FOR 308 MLN STG. DEALERS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO SPECULATE RTZ MIGHT USE THE PROCEEDS FROM ITS DISPOSAL TO BID FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEER DELTA, WHICH JUMPED 10P TO 309 FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT.
RUMOURS THAT RTZ WAS ABOUT TO UNVEIL A DEAL IN THE OIL AND GAS FIELD THIS MORNING LED TO A 12P RISE IN LASHO TO 367 AND A SIMILAR GAIN IN ENTERPRISE TO 377.
THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN SPECULATION THAT RTZ WOULD ACT ON ITS 29.7 PCT STAKE IN LASHO, WHICH IN TURN WAS 25 PCT OF ENTERPRISE. THE SHARES LATER SETTLED 2P BELOW THEIR HIGHS.

London Gold

LONDON, APRIL 25, REUTER - GOLD RECEIVED GOOD SUPPORT AT THE AFTERNOON FIXING WHERE THE PRICE WAS SET AT 450.20 DLS AN OUNCE, UP FROM THIS MORNING'S 449.75 DLR FIXING AND FRACTIONALLY ABOVE LAST MORNING LEVELS.
SOME DEALERS SAID THERE WAS GOOD BUYING INTEREST AT THE FIXING BUT THIS WAS SOON SATISFIED AND ACTUAL TRADING VOLUME WAS LIGHT.
GOLD HAD OPENED MONDAY AT 448.70/449.20 DLS COMPARED WITH FRIDAY'S CLOSE OF 449.00/449.50. THE AFTERNOON FIXING REPRESENTED THE DAY'S HIGHS AFTER THE NEW YORK OPENING HAD SUPPORTED THE STABLE EUROPEAN MORNING MARKET.

London Money Market

LONDON, APRIL 25, REUTER - MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES SHOWED 1/16 POINT RISES AT THE LONGER END OF THE MARKET BUT SHORT TO MEDIUM PERIOD RATES WERE STEADY, DEALERS SAID.
THEY NOTED THAT THE FIRMNESS WAS AGAIN LED BY THE FUTURES MARKET WHERE THE SHORT STERLING CONTRACT DROPPED AN EARLY 15 BASIS POINTS TO A LOW ON THE DAY OF 91.31 BEFORE RECOVERING TO STAND ONLY SLIGHTLY DOWN AT 91.42.
STERLING WAS EASIER AGAINST THE MARK, STANDING AT JUST ABOVE THE 3.15 LEVEL WITH TRADERS PREDICTING THAT U.K. BASE RATES ARE SET TO REMAIN AT CURRENT LEVELS FOR SOME TIME. THE KEY THREE MONTHS INTERBANK RATE WAS STEADY AT 8-3/4 1/4 PCT.

Foreign Exchange

OLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
OLR	1.8795/00	1.6745/50	5.6885/05	NOON
STG	1.8810/20	3.1490/1525	10.6985/7095	NOON
DMK	1.6702/6782	3.143/157	29.35/51	FIX
FFR	5.682/694	10.693/711	339.38/40.02	FIX
SFR	1.33838/3848	2.60286/056	82.61/71	24.31/34
HFL	1.8780	3.5345	112.17	33.02
ECU	0.73842	0.73280	2.31280	7.85368
SDR	1.28452	234.04/70	22.04/88	OTHERS
SDR RATES	22.04/88	OTHERS	25.04/1988	NOON

LONDON (Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALICE	699/0	700/0
600 GROUP	103/0	104/0
A.B. ELECT	424/0	425/0
AAR NLD	276/0	276/0
AARONSON	130/0	130/0
ACRE OIL	185/0	188/0
ADDITION	94/0	94/0
ADVEST	309/0	306/0
ALEX WRMK	158/0	158/0
ALEXON	368/0	365/0
ALLD COLL	124/0	123/0
ALLD PLMT	52/0	53/0
ALLIANCE	777/0	778/0
AMARI	177/0	174/0
AMEC	397/0	398/0
AMER TRST	116/0	116/0
AMERSHAM	444/0	443/0
ANI HLTHC	263/0	263/0
ANGLO O'S	198/0	199/0
APPLEYARD	421/0	422/0
APRICOT	100/0	100/0
APV PLC	112/0	110/0
AQUAS.A	92/0	93/0
ARAB ENGY	72/0	73/0
ARCHER AJ	160/0	161/0
ARLINGTON	197/0	198/0
ARMSTRONG	129/0	129/0
ASHLEY.LA	115/0	115/0
ATWOODS	290/0	290/0
AUS REE A	256/0	253/0
AUST REED	365/0	365/0
AVON RUBB	695/0	695/0
B.WEIMILL	163/0	163/0
BAILL JAT	500/0	503/0
BANKER IT	66/0	65/0
BARBER D	147/0	148/0
BARRT DEV	188/0	188/0
BAYNES C.	32/0	32/0
BEJAN GP	166/0	166/0
BELHAVEN	46/0	47/0
BELLWAY	240/0	240/0
BENLOX HD	57/0	58/0
BENTALLS	188/0	185/0
BERKELEY	364/0	365/0
BH GROUP	111/0	111/0
BIRMD CL	383/0	383/0
BK OF SCD	524/0	512/0
BLACKWOOD	51/4	51/0
BLACK LE 2	18/0	18/0
BNETT + F	35/0	35/0
BOASE HAS	255/0	256/0
BODDINGTN	130/0	130/0
BOOKER	304/0	305/0
BOOT NEWB	340/0	338/0
BORTHWICK	45/0	45/0
BOYATER	383/0	383/0
BOYTERPKE	170/0	171/0
BR ASSETS	63/4	63/4
BR DREDGI	129/0	124/0
BR LAND	309/0	311/0

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
BR VITA	430/0	431/0
BRAMMER	250/0	245/0
BRENT CHE	135/0	136/0
BRENT WCR	356/0	357/0
BRIDON	147/0	143/0
BRITANNIC	030/0	035/0
BRIXTON E	292/0	293/0
BRUNNER	106/0	106/0
BSG INTL	65/0	65/0
BULMER HP	174/0	175/0
CALEDONIA	346/0	343/0
CALOR GRP	368/0	368/0
CAMB ELEC	239/0	238/0
CANNING W	178/0	178/0
CANNON ST	276/0	276/0
CAP GRP	300/0	301/0
CAP RADIO	214/0	214/0
CARADON	319/0	318/0
CARLO EN	171/0	175/0
CARLESS C	107/0	107/0
CARLTON C	740/0	740/0
CASE GRP	81/0	83/0
CATER ALL	570/0	570/0
CEINTL ITV	504/0	503/0
CHARTERIA	25/4	26/0
CHAS CHUR	124/0	125/0
CHATER CN	329/0	328/0
CHLORIDE	52/0	52/0
CHRISTIES	575/0	578/0
CI GROUP	43/0	43/0
CLYDE PET	140/4	142/0
CHORCE EN	71/0	72/0
CITIL SEC	52/0	52/0
COALITE	315/0	315/0
COATES BR	321/0	320/0
COLLINS A	466/0	468/0
COLLINS W	560/0	565/0
COLOROLL	185/0	184/0
COSTANT	318/0	313/0
COURTS FR	258/0	258/0
COITIE (C)	119/0	120/0
CREST NIC	227/0	227/0
CRR	110/0	111/0
CRODA INT	182/0	182/0
CROTHAMR	184/0	187/0
CROSTEN JA	150/0	153/0
CRYSTALIT	164/0	165/0
DARES EST	28/4	28/0
DAMSON IN	200/0	200/0
DE LA RUE	383/0	383/0
DELTA GRP	299/0	299/0
DIPLOMA	215/0	215/0
DRAYTON C	425/0	426/0
DRAYTON J	955/0	965/0
DRC	371/0	371/0
DUNWILL	201/0	202/0
EAGLE RFD	17/6	17/4
EAGLE TST	18/0	17/6
EDIN I.T.	148/0	148/0
ELECTRA	194/0	197/0
ELECTROCON	208/0	208/0
ELLIS EVA	179/0	180/0
ELLIS GOL	64/0	64/0
EMAP	193/0	192/0
EMPIRE ST	204/0	208/0
ERKINSE H	222/0	220/0
EURO W RG	22/4	23/0
EUROTHERM	342/0	343/0
EUTON RG	326/0	326/0
EVERED NL	111/0	110/0
EVODE GRP	160/0	161/0
F & C PAC	124/4	125/0
FALCON	56/0	57/0
FARNELL E	176/0	175/0
FED.ROUSEN	260/0	256/0
FENNER JH	166/0	166/0
FERGUSON	272/0	273/0
FINE ARTS	216/0	216/0
FITILAM GP	75/0	75/0
FITIMAY J	82/0	82/0
FITCH LOV	254/0	253/0
FLAME ARN	108/0	109/0
FLUNG CLAV	240/0	241/0
FLUNG FEA	177/0	178/0
FLUNG JAP	211/0	215/0
FLUNG MRC	172/0	172/0
FLUNG OSEA	146/0	147/0
FLUNG TECH	157/0	157/0
FLUNG UNIV	138/0	139/0
FOSECO MI	239/0	238/0
FR GROUP	273/0	274/0
FRESHBACE	99/0	100/0
FST LEISR	147/0	146/0
FST NAT F	252/0	252/0
FST SCOT	379/0	381/0
FUR & COL	102/4	103/0
GARDIMER	47/0	47/0
GEEST	225/0	225/0
GET INTL	113/0	113/0
GESTETTER	179/0	178/0
GOAL PET	102/0	102/0
GRAPH NP	78/0	78/0
GREEN KMG	254/0	253/0
GREENWAL	218/0	219/0
GREYCOAT	381/0	382/0
GRUP TV A	45/0	46/0
G.T. PTLD	304/0	305/0
GUS ORD	625/0	650/0
GVTY ORIE	268/0	269/0
GVTY STRA	225/0	224/0
H.LIND OIS	100/0	100/0
HALL (N)	154/0	151/0
HALMA	150/0	150/0
HAMBROS I	201/0	201/0
HANMERSON	601/0	595/0
HARRISON C	594/0	593/0
HEATN(C)E	384/0	385/0
HELENE LN	137/0	137/0
HENDON ST	35/0	35/0
HICKWOOD W	306/0	306/0
HYCKSON IN	165/0	166/0

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DATS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	284.7	285.6	285.6	278.4
AUSTRIA	203.0	202.9	202.3	203.8
BELGIUM	367.9	368.8	370.1	365.7
CANADA	365.4	364.5	366.5	363.4
DEMARK	373.5	371.2	369.6	370.3
FRANCE	313.1	310.5	290.7	288.5
GERMANY	167.3	167.5	168.7	166.3
HONG KONG	1853.5	1825.7	1845.8	1823.7
FINLAND	108.2	107.9	107.7	108.1
ITALY	397.4	400.7	410.5	404.7
JAPAN	1271.8	1272.9	1272.9	1269.3
NETHLANDS	244.2	245.4	244.5	238.4
NEW ZEAL	97.4	96.4	96.9	96.9
NORWAY	471.9	467.4	472.1	475.2
SPAIN	544.7	541.8	538.0	521.9
SWEDEN	243.7	242.9	244.7	247.8
SWITZ	861.6	863.6	862.4	856.8
U.K.	147.6	148.6	148.7	147.2
U.S.A.	533.6	537.1	537.1	526.3
WORLD	453.9	455.4	455.4	451.2
E.A.F.E.	871.0	876.6	881.1	868.9

NEW YORK

A BSCH COM	31/2	31/2
ATLANTIC R	87/5	87/5
AAR CORP	23/5	23/5
AETNA LIFE	42/6	42/6
ALASKA AIR	19/4	19/2
ALCAN ALUM	28/5	28/3
ALCO STAND	23/5	23/5
AM CYMANIO	46/3	48/6
AM ELET PV	29/6	28/5
AM NON PRO	77/5	77/3
AM HOW PRO	79/5	79/7
AM STANDARD	77/4	77/4
AM STORES	51/0	59/0
AM TEL-TEL	27/1	27/1
AMOCO CORP	78/0	78/1
AMP IRC	47/5	47/7
AMPCO PITT	14/3	14/2
AMR CORP	43/5	43/5
AMR GEN CO	30/7	30/3
AMERADA NE	29/5	29/7
ANTHEIM ELE	12/1	12/0
APACHE CP	8/0	8/0
APACHE PET	2/6	2/7
ARMSTRONG	39/3	38/6
ASHLAND OIL	69/0	69/1
ASTA PACIF	6/1	6/1
ATLS CORP	0	34/1
AVERY INT	23/7	23/5
AVNET INC	25/6	25/4
AVON PRODS	26/1	23/7
BELL ATLANT	66/4	65/6
BCE INC	31/0	31/1
BELL-HOW	0	63/2
BETH STEEL	19/5	19/4
BEVERLY	6/4	6/5
BK1 BOSTON	24/5	24/5
BK1 BSTM-A	0	43/6
BK1 N-YORK	30/5	30/5
BK1 TR-NY	31/4	30/6
BK1AMERICA	10/6	10/6
BK1CAN SPEC	7/3	7/3
BOEING CO	45/4	45/5
BOISE CASC	46/7	46/6
BORDEN	53/6	54/0
BOWATER	32/0	31/6
BR TELECOM	46/1	46/5
BRIGGS-STR	29/7	29/7
BRIST-MYER	40/5	40/5
BRUNSMICK	22/5	22/3
BURNDY CO	14/4	14/5
C 3 INC	13/5	13/3
CABOT CORP	36/6	36/6
CAESARS MO	23/3	23/3
CAS FREIGHT	23/5	21/6
CAS NAT GS	0	14/7
CAST-COCKE	23/6	23/6
CATERPI TR	62/4	62/7
CB1 IND	0	27/5
CB1	152/6	152/6
CENTEL CP	48/5	48/0
CENTRO OAT	0	2/3
CHAMP	35/1	34/7
CHAMP INTL	12/5	12/2
CHAMP SPA	4/2	4/2
CHARTER CO	25/1	25/4
CHNAE MAN	35/0	35/0
CHENED CP	26/0	25/4
CHENED NT	47/2	47/2
CHEVRON	23/2	23/1
CHRYSLER	52/0	52/1
CIUBB CORP	6/7	7/0
CIUR FR CH	45/0	45/0
CIGNA CORP	23/2	22/5
CII MILACOR	28/0	28/2
CIR CTR-SEC	0	13/2
CIRCLE-K	0	25/2
CITICORP	20/3	20/3
CLARK EQUI	31/0	31/1
CLOREX	29/2	29/3
CMPELL RES	1/5	1/5
CMPELL SP	26/7	26/6
CAN PAC	19/1	19/1
COACHMEN	9/6	9/3
COASTAL	29/7	29/7
COCA-COLA	38/0	37/7
COLECO	3/0	2/7
COLEMAN CO	40/2	40/0
COLG-PALMOL	40/4	40/0
COLT INDS	16/4	16/4
COLUM GAS	28/3	28/4
COM EDISON	24/2	24/2
CONAGRA	25/4	25/5
CON EDIMENTA	42/5	43/0
CONTINENTAL	37/0	37/0
CONTL ILLN	+03	+03
CONTEL CP	33/0	32/6
CONTEL DATA	23/6	24/0
COOPER T-R	33/3	33/3
COOPER CO	12/0	11/7
CORNING GL	50/7	50/6
CRANE	31/0	30/2
CRAY RES	82/4	82/1
CULLINET	7/3	7/1
DANIEL INC	0	9/5
DATA GEN	23/6	24/1
DATAPoint	5/5	5/4
DAYTON HUD	36/3	36/4
OEC	99/7	99/2
DEERE-CO	45/5	45/5

French markets dip

Dollar steady, gold slightly higher

LONDON, April 25. (Reuters): The dollar was steady and most stock markets were quiet this morning, but the French franc dipped and Paris shares fell sharply in response to the vote in yesterday's first round of the French presidential election.

Oil prices held around Friday's closing levels. British North Sea Brent crude was quoted around \$17.10 a barrel for May loading, and the price of gold was fixed in London at \$449.75 an ounce, up 50 cents from Friday's finish.

Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market rose 155.08 points, to a record 7,713.45. London shares by late morning had lost

most of their opening gains and the 100-share FTSE index was only half a point down on its Friday close of 1,771.6.

But the Paris Bourse indicator fell as much as 3.1 per cent by mid-morning, as dealers said they were upset that Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac won just under 20 per cent in yesterday's voting, compared with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's 34 per cent.

Dealer "No one wants to sit around as things get bleaker over the next two weeks," a Paris share dealer said. The final round of voting will be held on May 8.

The French franc fell as much

as two centimes to approach 5.7 francs to the dollar, before settling just below 5.69.

"It's a normal effect of the election—Chirac's performance was fairly disappointing," a Paris currency dealer said.

Most other currency exchange rates held steady, with the dollar hardly changed at 1.6735 West German marks and 124.60 Japanese yen. It traded at \$1.8830 to the pound sterling.

"The dollar seems to have risen back over the last few days on little more than a lack of reasons to sell it," said a currency analyst with a British bank.

Concern that US inflation is on the rise and over the massive

American trade deficit should depress the dollar, dealers said.

But for many, their worries about tension in the Gulf, and a widely-held view that US interest rates will rise soon make the dollar an attractive place to hold funds.

Those same concerns have been boosting gold, traditionally favoured by investors when international tensions or when inflation threatens to erode the value of cash and securities.

Worries about inflation had weighed on stock markets, too.

But Tokyo stockbrokers say they expect their market to rally. "We are above 27,000 and going strong," said Tadaaki

Uehara, deputy general manager at Wako Securities.

"There is no specific bad news, and the domestic economy remains bright," said deputy branch manager Takeshi Muraikami of Schroder Securities. "The Tokyo market is still on an up trend."

Higher Meanwhile, Frankfurt's 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index opened 0.4 points higher at 295.86 while Amsterdam's CBS all-share index opened 0.5 points higher at 84.4.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 32.4 points to close at 2,623.75 and Singapore shares edged higher.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD firm against GCC currencies

Kuwaiti dinar
BASED on opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate was firmer against US dollar ending the week at 273.26 fils compared with its week before last closing of 274.83 fils. Against the pound sterling, the KD was easier ending at 515.86 fils compared with its week before last closing of 506.46 fils.

The KD was slightly easier against the DM ending the week at 163.82 fils compared with its week before last closing of 162.43 fils.

The KD ended the week easier against the SFR closing at 198.35 compared with its week before last closing at 196.10 fils. Against the Jordanian dinar, the KD firmer, ending the week lower at 796.21 fils compared with its week before last closing of 799.27 fils. The KD was slightly firmer against the GCC currencies.

World stocks
Wall Street stock prices weakened over last week as the Midwest clash between the US and Iran disturbed investors and there was no new developments to stir the market with the dollar being directionless, providing little guidance.

Prices fell through the 2000 level before recovering later in the week on futures-related programme activity.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2000 and closed at 2015, near the previous week's closing level of 2014.

Shares prices on the London Stock Exchange fluctuated over last week and ended lower on recently reduced bid activity, little hope of a cut in UK base rates following worse-than-expected UK March bank lending and money supply data which pointed to inflationary pressure building up in the UK economy, and fears of possible large rights issues in the new account all weighed heavily on market sentiment.

The FTSE-100 opened the week at 1788 and closed at 1776, unchanged from its previous week's closing.

US dollar
The US dollar was generally mixed against other major currencies and traded in a narrow range except against the pound sterling which surged against the US to its highest level since 1981.

The Fed is said to have intervened with Bank of England to support the dollar.

The rising tensions in the Gulf between the US and Iran, the market speculation of a higher US interest rates, and fear of Central Bank intervention has kept a floor under the dollar whereas the dollar upward move was also limited by the widening US Fed trade deficit and lack of investor interest.

The dollar slightly firmer close of the week was attributed to technical factors rather than fundamentals.

Given the inaction on the dollar from the market attention focused on the higher yielding currencies like the sterling, Australian dollar (which reached its 2-1/2 year high against US dollar at 75.34 cents), and the Canadian dollar (which reached its 3-year high against US dollar at 81.12 cents).

Fed Vice Chairman Manual Johnson's remarks slightly boosted the dollar as he said the Fed has adjusted its current policy to be more responsive to economic development.

The US dollar wasn't responsive to data showing increased inflation as evidenced by US March consumer price index which rose above market expectation by 0.5 per cent and stood 3.9 per cent above a year ago level after a 0.2 per cent rise in Feb with advances in apparel, food, transportation and energy prices responsible for the rise.

Japanese yen
The Japanese yen tone remained strong though it was locked in a narrow trading range against the US dollar opening the week at 124.20/30 yen and ending the week at 124.75/85 yen slightly lower compared to its week before last closing of 123.90/00 yen. The market was cautious on possible concerted central banks intervention.

Bank of Japan allowed seasonal rise in its one-month and two-month commercial bill rates. Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, said that current FX rates are basically stable despite the renewed dollar weakness lately.

Deutsche mark
The mark was mostly stable against US dollar opening the week at 1.6600/10 marks but ended slightly easier at 1.6745/55 marks around its week before last closing of 1.6620/30 mark. The mark resumed its weaker tone against the pound sterling closing the week at 3.157/60 marks compared to its week before last closing at 3.133/136 despite Bank of England intervention to put a cap on sterling's rise.

Gold
Gold bullion prices opened the week higher at \$459.25/\$459.75 and closed lower at \$449/\$449.50 showing a loss of \$7 over the previous week's closing of \$456/\$456.50. Gold continued to lose ground over the week to end below \$450. According to the chairman and chief executive officer of Homestake Mining Co., the cost of putting new US gold mines into operation is going up after years of declines.

Texas official offers to cut oil output by 10pc

HOUSTON, April 25. (Reuters): Texas Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance, who will attend this week's meeting of Opec and non-Opec oil producers in Vienna, said on Friday Texas might help boost oil prices by cutting output up to 10 per cent.

The commission regulates Texas oil production, which totals about two million barrels per day.

Hance said he met Opec president Rihwanu Lukman in London earlier this month and discussed the possibility of Texas taking part in the effort of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to boost world oil prices by reducing output.

Suggestion
Hance, who was speaking on Friday to the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association annual meeting, did not say how the Opec president reacted to his suggestion at their meeting.

In the past, US Department of Energy has firmly ruled out any participation in manipulating the world oil market.

But because the Texas Railroad Commission is responsible for conserving the state's resources, it could order production cutbacks in the name of conservation, Hance said.

The commission sets the amount of oil to be produced each month from all Texas oil wells. From the 1930s to the early 1970s, its decisions on statewide production quotas essentially determined world oil prices.

The Railroad Commission has sought official observer status to attend all Opec meetings, Hance said.

He says his cutback proposals have broad grassroots support. One Texas oilman, he said, told him he would "rather have 90 per cent of \$20 than 100 per cent of \$13, referring to the price of a barrel of oil."

Hance, a former US Congressman, also proposed that the Railroad Commission monitor Opec production because the commission "the best monitoring system in the world."

"We can certainly help set up a programme to see who is living up to the Opec quota system and who is not," he said.

US warns of environmental dangers resulting from big loans

WASHINGTON, April 25. (AP): Pending loans totalling more than \$3 billion aimed at raising living standards in 20 countries also may harm people in those countries and damage their natural resources, a government agency says.

Of particular concern are projects that would dam up big rivers in the tropics, build roads into undeveloped parts of the world or try to develop rural areas, according to the US Agency for International Development.

US law requires the agency to draw up a list of loans proposed by international lending institutions and which it considers dangerous, and distribute it to members of those institutions—such as Japan and Western European countries.

Loans
An advance copy obtained by the Associated Press indicated 31 such loans in the planning stage would dole out at least \$3 billion—and possibly much more.

No estimates were available for five of the loans. Others were earmarked for major projects on

which the banks already have made loans and may make more in the future.

The United States is the biggest contributor to the World Bank, which is a major source of such loans to poor countries.

One of the biggest World Bank loans on the list would provide \$420 million for a dam on India's Narmada river, second only to the Ganges in sacredness to Hindus. The dam eventually would displace 120,000 people, irrigate 300,000 hectares (about 720,000 acres) of land and generate 1,000 megawatts of electricity.

Project
The agency says the project also could increase the risk of earthquakes, of waterlogging the soil and of transmitting waterborne diseases including malaria and cholera. There would be 40,000 hectares (96,000 acres) cleared of forest and submerged.

"We continue to have concerns about this project and will pursue them again with (World) Bank management as one of our top priorities to see what actions to address our concerns will be taken," the agency said.

But it added: "We do not consider the list all-inclusive."

Six of the loans would go to Indonesia, including one for \$120 million to assist in an Indonesian government effort that has moved over 1.2 million families out of the overpopulated islands of Java and Bali. The US agency says it is worried about insufficient help to people being moved, displacement of those who already live near the new settlements, danger to water supply and to wildlife.

Support
Another controversial project involves the World Bank's continued support for a major overhaul of Brazil's electric power system. This would include a loan of \$500 million.

The agency says it is concerned about the impact on Brazil's Indian populations and its "sensitive ecosystem." British and West German officials joined the Americans in talking to the bank's management in January, and were told that the loan had been delayed until September or October, mostly for economic reasons.

Trade bill veto threat 'a mistake'

WASHINGTON, April 25. (Reuters): President Reagan is making a serious mistake by threatening to veto a sweeping trade bill as Congress would be unlikely to pass another version this year, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said yesterday.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, in a television interview, criticised the administration's stance as the Senate prepared to vote this week, possibly on Tuesday, on a trade bill approved 312-107 by the House of Representatives last Thursday.

The White House says the President will not sign the bill into law, partly because he objects to a provision requiring 60 days' advance notice of major plant closings and layoffs.

The bill, three years in the making, is intended to open foreign markets to US goods by requiring retaliation against countries that violate international trade pacts. It also includes measures for retraining US workers who lose their jobs because of import competition

and gives more bargaining authority to the US trade representative.

Congressional leaders say the bill is essential to help lower the US deficit on trade with the rest of the world, which exceeded \$170 billion last year.

"I think it's a high-risk policy to risk the entire trade bill over this one issue (60 days' notice)," said Bentsen, who led Senate negotiations with House members that led to the sweeping 1,100-page trade bill.

"You have hundreds of issues, many things involved in there for American workers and American business, and we're trying to turn this trade deficit around," Bentsen said.

Surpluses
"To risk it all on this one issue that's a commonsense issue, that's a humane policy, I think is a serious mistake."

In response to questions, Bentsen said it was outrageous for Japan to claim the trade proposals were racist because they aim at lowering Japan's surplus on trade.

He said Japan spent an estimated \$60 million lobbying against the bill in Washington last year and that countries with trade surpluses like Japan and West Germany would rejoice if it was vetoed by the President.

If the President vetoes the bill, Bentsen said, Congress "would have a very difficult time and it's high risk whether we can (pass a new bill) this year."

Congress can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds vote in each House.

IDB lends to Pakistan, Tunis

BAHRAIN, April 25. (Reuters): The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) signed an agreement at its headquarters in Jeddah on Sunday to lend Pakistan \$20 million to import palm oil, an IDB statement said.

It also signed an agreement to lend Tunis \$37 million to import chemicals.

Japan making strides to halt technology violations

TOKYO, April 25. (AP): Japan has made great strides in trying to prevent sales of banned high technology items to Soviet bloc countries, but there still is a potential for further violations, a US State Department official said yesterday.

Allan Wendt, senior representative for strategic technology policy, spent two days discussing issues related to the coordinating committee for export to Communist nations (Cocom), which governs the sales of restricted items by Western countries.

The talks included Japanese concerns that the US Congress will retaliate against Toshiba Machine Co. for selling banned equipment to the Soviet Union that enabled the Soviets to build quieter submarines, Wendt said.

Improvements
The two sides also discussed improvements in the Japanese export system, cooperation in implementing export controls and cooperative areas of enforcement, plus streamlining control lists, cooperation from third countries and the liberalisation of export controls for China.

Wendt said Japan has enacted a new law that toughens the penalties against violators, and said 2,200 Japanese companies have established internal controls to prevent further violations.

"I certainly hope there will never be another Toshiba machine-type case, which everyone knows was an egregious violation," he said. "I think there will continue to be violations of the Cocom rules. I think it would be unrealistic not to expect violations... human greed has been with us for a long time and is unlikely to disappear," he said.

The delegation will hold an investors' conference at the Sheraton Hotel today at 8 pm.

Investors meet

A HIGH level team from Samtel Colour Limited headed by Satish K. Kaura, chairman-cum-managing director, is arriving today to promote their equity issue which opens for non-resident Indians on April 30.

The delegation will hold an investors' conference at the Sheraton Hotel today at 8 pm.

Banks urged to boost lending to indebted Arab countries

This is the second part of the article "Arabs introduce debt management strategies." The first part of the article appeared in the Arab Times on April 25, Monday.

The growing size of Arab external debt since the early 1970s is indicative of the widening gap between the countries' export earnings and their import requirements. The level of Arab indebtedness has also increased in dollar terms during the last three years with the US currency losing close to 50 per cent of its value against some of the currencies in which Arab countries have chosen to borrow.

At the same time, net new lending has contracted from \$4.2 billion in 1982 to \$3.0 billion in 1986. Substantial principal repayments have been made during this period with gross disbursements static at around \$10 billion annually.

Ability

Various indicators may be considered when assessing the ability of a country to borrow externally. These are: (a) Solvency indicators which reflect the structural strength and overall stability of the economy (debt/GDP and debt/export earnings); and (b) Liquidity indicators (debt service ratio, reserves in months of import coverage and liquidity gap ratio), measures the adequacy of a country's export earnings and its international reserves to meet its current external obligations, principally to pay for its imports and service in debt.

The debt service ratio is defined as total debt service payments (actual payment of principal plus interest) to earnings

from exports of goods and services (current account earnings).

The liquidity gap ratio is defined as the ratio of short-term debt less current account deficit to export earnings.

The Arab debt burden has been steadily increasing in the eighties. Between 1982-1986 the average ratio of total external debt to gross national product for the group of highly indebted Arab countries rose from 47.4 per cent, well in the high range by conventional standards.

Earnings
Another solvency indicator, the average ratio of debt to current account earnings, was also on the rise for the group of indebted Arab countries. This ratio rose from an acceptable 179 per cent in 1982 to a poor 203 per cent in 1984 and to a critical 365 per cent in 1986. Slow export growth and lower invisible earnings in the form of workers' remittances and official transfers have undermined current account revenues in the last few years and contributed to the high debt to current account ratios of several indebted Arab countries.

While the solvency indicators point to a rising debt burden for certain highly indebted Arab countries as well as for the group as a whole, the overwhelming official and concessional nature of Arab external debt has resulted in a relatively low, albeit increasing, debt servicing burden.

Reserves
In addition, the emergence of official debt management strategies (rescheduling) and unofficial ones (arrears build-up) have considerably eased the Arab debt burden.

The other liquidity indicators

are the ratio of foreign reserves to average monthly import coverage and liquidity gap ratio. Based on IMF statistics, by the end of 1987 most of the Arab countries had enough reserves to cover more than two months of import cover.

Only four countries had a liquidity gap ratio higher than 60 indicating that the region's short term debt is still manageable. Given the debt profile levels outstanding by the end of 1986, last year marked the peak of debt servicing burden for the Arab debtor countries as a whole.

After reaching \$14.8 billion in 1987, debt service is projected by the World Bank to decline to \$14.5 billion in 1988 and \$14.4 billion in 1989. By 1991, total debt service for the group will be stored to the 1986 level of 10.6 billion.

For the Arab debtor countries as a whole external debt is primarily of a long term nature. In 1986, 82.5 per cent of total external debt was long term, 15.3 per cent was short term and 2.2 per cent was IMF credit (less than 18 months), all close to the average for the 1982-1986 period.

Lower

Moreover, this long term debt is primarily public or publicly guaranteed debt, with private non-guaranteed debt practically non-existent. In 1986 only \$1.3 billion was private non-guaranteed long term debt and was mainly accounted for in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

According to the Unified Arab Monetary Report published by the Arab Monetary Fund in 1988, total loans extended to the Arab debtor countries from official sources reached \$37.1 billion during the period 1980-

1985, with a yearly average of \$6.18 billion, slightly lower than the yearly average of \$6.18 billion slightly lower than the yearly average of \$6.40 billion during the period 1975-1979. Saudi Arabia was the largest creditor accounting for an average of around 69 per cent of the total, followed by Kuwait (20 per cent), UAE (6.3 per cent) and Qatar (1.5 per cent). Bilateral aid and loans were by far larger than those offered by the multilateral development institutions, accounting for an average of around 83.4 per cent of total soft loans extended.

What characterises transfers from official Arab sources is their soft term nature. Close to 50 per cent of the credit extended is in the form of aid and grants while the loan portion of these transfers is of a concessional nature to be repaid over periods ranging between 10 and 20 years with interest rates far below the commercial levels.

Among the Arab countries receiving subsidised loans from the various Arab development Funds, Jordan was the largest borrower drawing close to \$1.6 billion by the end of 1986 or 12.5 per cent of the total loans extended. Morocco came next with \$1.4 per cent of the total, Tunisia (11 per cent), South Yemen (9.9 per cent), Algeria (8.4 per cent), Sudan (8.3 per cent) and Syria (6.1 per cent).

While the short-term outlook for the highly indebted Arab countries remains bleak, the longer term prospects are more encouraging especially if the required structural adjustments are implemented.

A global recession is not expected in 1988, nevertheless economic activities will be less

robust than in the previous two years, and the possibility of a worldwide economic slowdown looms higher for 1989.

Demand for oil, agricultural products, phosphates and other commodities that generate most of the indebted Arab countries' export revenues will again be restricted by global conditions.

The US dollar, the currency in which most of these exports are denominated, has not yet bottomed and is expected to weaken further in the course of 1988.

Lending

Arab banks and financial institutions are being called upon to increase their lending to the indebted Arab countries to help them service their debt and cover additional financing requirements.

It is doubtful whether the major Arab international banks would be able to contribute much more in this respect. To stem capital flight, considered an important cause of external Arab debt, the indebted Arab countries need to provide a stable political and economic environment and reduce domestic uncertainties.

An over-valued exchange rate makes foreign assets seem cheap, raises the risk of devaluation of national currencies and encourages capital outflow. High inflation rates create uncertainty as well, which together with repressive interest rate policy render real interest rates low or even negative.

Eliminating fiscal deficits and maintaining positive real interest rate and realistic foreign exchange policy will go a long way towards reducing capital flight and provides a substitute for foreign borrowing.

(Concluded)

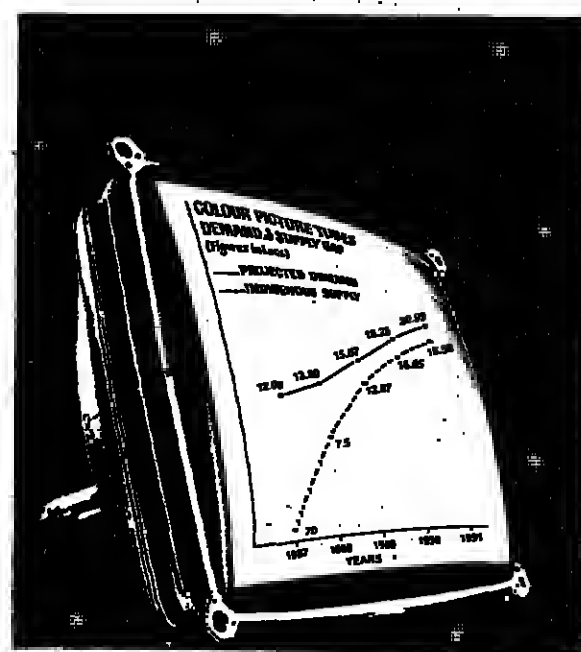
The picture of success in black & white.
Now in colour.
Samtel India Ltd. promotes Samtel Color Ltd.

SUMMARY OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS

ASSETS:	As at 31.12.87 (Rupees)
Fixed Capital Expenditure:	
Net Block	93,73,066
Capital Work-in-Progress (including materials at site & capital advances)	14,67,64,289
Preoperative and incidental Expenditure incurred during construction period - Pending Allocation	1,47,67,218
Current Assets, Loans and Advances:	1,83,95,694
Miscellaneous Expenditure (to the extent not written off and/or adjusted)	5,22,135
LIABILITIES:	
SECURED LOANS	
Loans from Financial Institutions and Banks (includes foreign currency loans Rs. 92,98,424)	7,49,69,402
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	1,62,39,664
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	
Capital	3,01,24,740
Share application money	6,84,88,596

Highlights

- Promoter: a) Samtel India Ltd., the largest manufacturer of quality black & white TV picture tubes.
- Consistent track-record of dividends—22% in 1984-85, 25% in 1986 and recommended 25% in 1987 and 1-3 BONUS.
- Premium share Rs. 52 as on 9.3.88 on Bombay Stock Exchange.
- Market and selling arrangements: a) Import substitute.
- Established marketing network.
- Collaborator: a) Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan, the largest broad, based manufacturer of electrical and electronic equipment.
- Producer of largest variety of CPTs.
- No Gestation: Commercial production already commenced.
- Know-how: a) Backed by stiff performance guarantee.
- Simultaneous production of 14" & 21" PST.
- Listing: Shares will be listed at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangalore Stock Exchanges.
- Tax benefits: 80 CC, 80 L, 80 M and others.



INVESTORS CONFERENCE

Date Time Venue
26.4.88 8.00 p.m. Hotel Kuwait Sheraton, Kuwait
Mr. Satish K. Kaura, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Samtel Group will be addressing all the conferences.
All are cordially invited.

Issue of 20,00,000 Equity Shares of Rs. 10 each for cash at par to Non-Resident Indians on repatriation basis

Managers to the Issue
Industrial Finance Corporation of India (Public) Limited
20th Century Finance Corporation Limited
Advices to the Issue
ANZ Grindlays Bank
ISSUE OPENS FOR NRIs 30th April 1988

SAMTEL COLOR LIMITED

Regd. Office: 50-51, Community Centre, New Pleside Colony, New Delhi-110 005.



SPANISH police broke their own month-old record for Europe's biggest cocaine haul, seizing 562 kilos of the drug in a civil war bunker on a Costa Brava beach, officials said. (Reuter wirephoto).



POPE JOHN PAUL II, seated under a canopy on the stage in front of St Peter's Basilica, during an outdoor beatification ceremony. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN ISRAELI police officer (right) argues with an Arab shopkeeper near the Damascus Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem. Shopkeepers opened their businesses on Sunday for three hours only, in defiance of police orders to remain open all day. (Reuter wirephoto)



CHILDREN from the tribal homeland of Transkei play soccer with white holidaymakers camping on a remote beach on South Africa's Indian Ocean coast. (Reuter wirephoto)



JEAN-MARIE LE PEN, candidate for the extreme right National Front party, and his daughter Marine, embrace each other at the National Front headquarters outside Paris on Sunday. Le Pen is the big winner in France's presidential elections although he did not progress beyond the first round. Le Pen won more than 14 per cent of the national vote surpassing all opinion poll estimates. (Reuter wirephoto)



RELATIVES of foreign hostages held in Lebanon attend a Sunday mass at a church in Christian East Beirut. The mass was organised by the Vatican's mission in Lebanon and Papal Nuncio Angeloni led the prayers. Front from left to right: unidentified hostage relative, Denise Carton (centre) and her two daughters (back row) Virginia Steen, Firyal Polhill, Ilham Cicippio and Jean Sutherland. (Reuter wirephoto)



A SOVIET soldier steers an armoured personnel carrier through the streets of Kabul on Sunday as an Afghan flag flutters in the background. The Soviets are beginning preparations for the recently signed withdrawal agreement. (Reuter wirephoto)



PRINCESS CAROLINE of Monaco is smiling during the finals of the Monte Carlo tennis open, while Andrea, her son is watching the Lendl-Jaite match. (Reuter wirephoto)



EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Daniel Caldera of Mexico points something out to his brother Jose during World Children's Day at the United Nations on Sunday. Children from around the world made speeches for peace in the United Nations General Assembly Hall. (Reuter wirephoto)



Member Ship No. 127

Name Ned Tracy

Father Edward

Mother Doris

Name

Name

Date of

Birthday 1930

Address 176 S. Roustany Str.
Zarif

A PHOTOCOPY of American hostage Edward Tracy's residence permit in Lebanon delivered along with a handwritten statement by his kidnappers the Revolutionary Justice Organisation to a Western news agency in Beirut on Sunday. The RJO threatened to kill two Americans they hold in Lebanon if the US continued its attacks on Iran in the Gulf. (Reuter wirephoto)



EIGHT people died and two were seriously injured when this plane carrying parachutists crashed after take-off from Lens in the north of France on Sunday. (Reuter wirephoto)



BLUES great James Brown performs before a capacity crowd at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans on Sunday. The festival features musical grats from all over the country. (Reuter wirephoto)



A CHILD carrying her doll stays close to her mother in a voting booth of a Paris polling station on Sunday. France's two-stage presidential election opened with outgoing head of state Francois Mitterrand poised to top Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in the field of nine candidates. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Wanted

FARWANIYA preferably in east/west of Airport Road. Quiet boy seeks independent room, meals with a Goan. Tele. Agnelo, 4718980/944, 8.30 am - 2 pm.

KHALDIYA, Omariya or Old Khaitan, accommodation required in a single furnished room with meals for a Muslim bachelor to share with one Muslim bachelor from 1st May. Tele. Shahrar, 4816326/7, 9 am - 2 pm.

Available

SALMIYA, Block 16, Villa 12. Two furnished rooms with tela, facilities for bachelors or a couple, to share with a family. Rent KD25 per person. Tele. Mr Shaikh, 5612240, afternoon.

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street. One room with water, electricity, kitchen and tela. Facilities for a couple or a small family. Tele. Monty, 4848190, 4849120 ext 2258, 9 am - 3 pm, 5639889 res.

(AT2-41985-3)



Arab Times
Classifieds
the
buyer's
companion

For Rent

SALMIYA, near Indian School. Two apartments: (1) consisting of 2 bedrooms and a living room with a floor. Rent KD135 with water and electricity. (2) Consisting of 2 bedrooms and a living room. Rent KD155. Tele. 5624459, 4-9 pm.

NEAR the city. Annexa and separate room for a family or working lady. Tele. 2580835, afternoons.

(AT4-42006-3)

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

BENIED Al Qar, 2 bedroom apartment available from mid-May, with or without contents. Tele. 2518465.

CAR/computer — 1981 Mazda, 60,000 km, excellent condition. KD250. Zenith, IBM compatible, colour/amber monitors, hard disk, multifunction, modern, more KD350. Tele. Ken, 2623957, evenings.

FREEZER, KD25, automatic washing machine KD25, aerial, rotator, amp, KD20, Chrysler New Yorker 1983 model, automatic cruise control, KD975. Tele. Mr Rick, 5726936 res, 4742257 off.

(AT3-42004-3)

FOR RENT
Villas — part of
villas and flats. 2-3-
4 bedrooms,
garden, car park
pools & telephone.

Black Gold Real Estate
2403388 — 2403399

SINGLE & double beds, side tables, cupboards; sofa set; chairs; 16ft speed boat. Canon AE1 copying machine; surfboards. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. 3902105.

(AT4-42026-3)

KITCHEN cupboards, electric cooker, coffee-table, wardrobes, desk, childrens toys, bikes, Scaletrix car set, electric tram set, Honda 2.50J motorbike with helmet, wall unit. Tele. 5314737.

(AT2-41977-3)

AMMAN Street above Marroosh Restaurant. Well-furnished flat, 2 bedrooms, hall and saloon with phone, TV 28", stereo and organ for sale. Price KD2500. Tele. 5748436.

(AT2-41981-3)

20" Sony TV and JVC VCR without remote controls. Two years old. Little used. KD120 for both the items. Anfeen, 4896000 ext 3844, 9 am - 1 pm

(AT4-42008-3)

VIDEO camera "Funi" with all appurtenances; Sony video; TV Telefunken 15 inches; rowing exercise machine; microwave oven. Tele. 2620842, afternoon.

(AT4-42007-3)

BBC computer model 'B' disc drive with 16 different software items, books etc. KD250 ono. Tele. Jacob, 2517988 ext. 25, 9 am - 1 pm.

(AT4-42024-3)

REQUIRED
The workshop of Khaldiya
Cooperative Society
REQUIRES
an experienced curtain
tailor.
Must know curtain fitting.
Call tel. 4843096

(AT4-42024-3)

Boats

VULCAN, 17 foot, racing dinghy, weighted keel. All gear including spinnaker etc, self righting, self bailing. Good condition. Ideal for local conditions. To highest offer. Tele. Dunford, 5314737.

(AT2-41977-3)

Furniture

DOUBLE bed for sala. Tele. 5336166, after 10 am.

(AT3-42001-3)

Cars

NISSAN Pulsar 1983, 60,000 kms, manual, regularly maintained in excellent condition. KD500. Tele. Chris, 2623953, evenings.

(AT4-42010-3)

CHEVROLET Impala 1980, registered in 1981, inspection valid upto April 1989, well-maintained dark blue/light blue, fully automatic, in good condition. KD750. Tele. Mr Shaikh, 2401197, 2410227, 9 am - 12 noon.

(AT3-41990-3)

MITSUBISHI Celeste 1600, 1978, AC, manual, yellow, registered up to May 1989, driven by a lady. KD300. Tele. 2624605.

(AT4-42015-2)

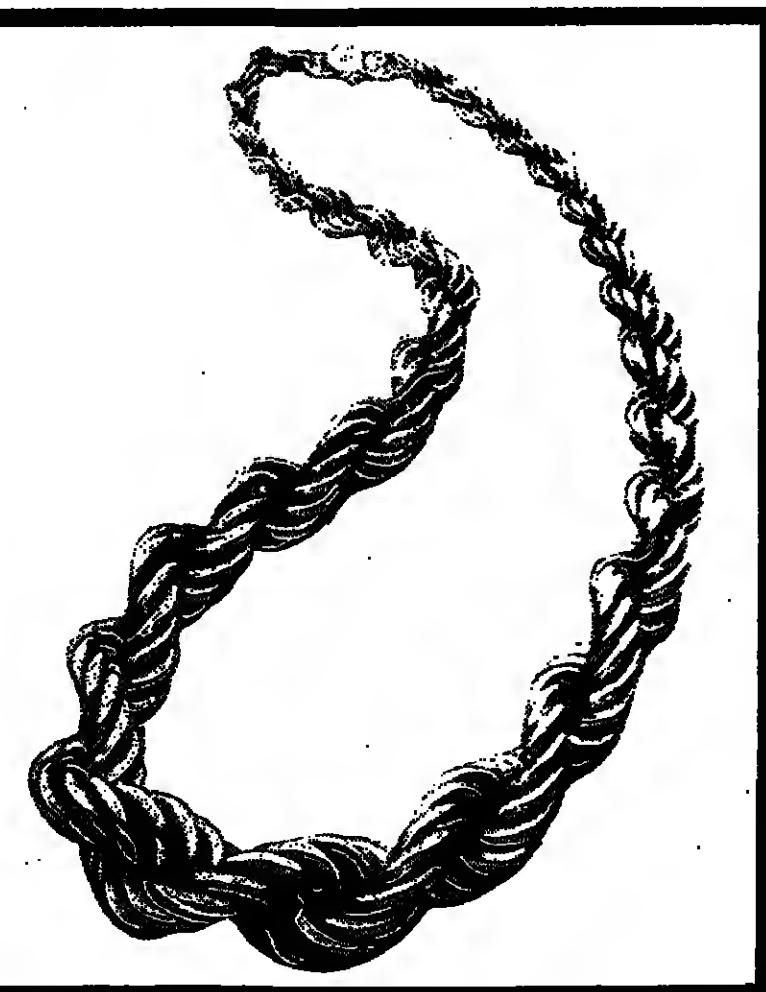
CHEVROLET — Eurosport — 1985, AC, automatic, white. Driven by a lady owner. In very good condition. KD1950, cash. Tele. Yusuf, 2436624, 6-8 pm.

(AT4-42014-2)

Computer Courses
For children and beginners
Basic programming
Word Processing
Lotus — Dbase III
Certificate from U.K.
Electronics shop
Salmiya Tel: 5617953

(AT4-42024-3)

EXQUISITE ITALIAN DESIGNS
at affordable prices



Come in and see our new line
of gold and precious jewellery

Boutique
Al Nerah

Souk Al Watya Kuwait Telephone 2448562.

MARKET PLACE

AMSTRAD IBM compatible 1512, 2 disc drives, high resolution colour monitor, in new condition. Tele. 3889111 ext. 6338 off, 7 am - 1 pm, 3886444 Res. after 4 pm.

(AT3-41984-3)

MITSUBISHI Pajero. 1983 with 4 deluxe wheels and tyres plus 5 spare wheels and tyres. KD1050. Tele. 3902105.

(AT4-42027-3)

PONTIAC Bonneville Brougham, 5 litre, white with blue velour. KD1950. Tele. 5381431.

(AT3-41991-3)

MISCELLANEOUS

LOADING container to Delhi in first week of May. Space of about 5/6 cbm available. Anyone interested please Tele. Paul, 2417758/62.

(AT3-41995-3)

PETS

SHEEP dog, female, free to a good family, housetrained, friendly and affectionate with children. 3 years old. Tele. 5389786, 8 am - 1 pm only.

(AT4-42016-2)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID required for a family with one child to live-in. Must speak English and have a transferable residence. Tele. Wajid, 2467881/3/4, 9 am - 4 pm.

(AT4-42017-3)

Al Khadra Real Estate
(Under British Management)
Apartments and villas for rent in various locations throughout Kuwait.
Ring Ken Winston,
Tel. No. 5758060/
5756888 ext. 263 or
5758570.

FOR RENT
SALWA AREA: New 2-storey villa, 5-bms with attached baths. Marble floors, superb finishing. Garden & garage, quiet location. Rent KD, 1000/- negotiable.
JABRIYA AREA: New split levels villa. 5-bms with attached baths. Garden, pool & garage. Rent KD, 1000/- P.M.
BAYAN AREA: Single storey 4-bm villa with large living/dining plus garden. KD, 700/- P.M.
SALWA AREA: 4-bm apartments with pool, health club, children's playground & parties hall KD, 550/-.

PLUS MANY MORE FLATS & VILLAS

CALL: BOUSHAHRI REAL ESTATE

Tel 5744017-5744018

FALEH ALBADR AL ADHLI
The Faleh Albadr Al Adhli caravan announces that they are arranging caravans for Haj and Omra on air-conditioned buses from Kuwait Public Transport Company and super vans. Housing will be provided at Madina Almunawara near the prophet Haram, also in Makkah at Aziziya, at first class accommodations in a luxury building.
There will be another caravan leaving during the last ten days of the holy month of Ramadan for Omra.
For reservations call at the reservations office at the Caravan Centre near Sulaibikhat Cinema, on Ramadan 22.
Greetings And Best Wishes.

Door to door...
Oh dear!
I should have called Alghanim...
No one does it better.
The biggest IATA freight agent in Kuwait.
Ramadan Timing:
From 9 am to 1 pm and 8 to 11 pm

Customer Services Tel:
4745533
Fahadhel 3923496/8 - Sherg 2460972/3
Murgab 2412595/2416801

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SAFAT SOUK

Announces the arrival of a new variety of best types of garments:

- Romanian trousers — excellent KD 2.000
- Men's jeans trousers KD 2.000
- A wide variety of shirts from 750 to KD 2.500
- Variety of Safari suits KD 3.000
- Romanian suit KD 10.000
- German-made woolen suit KD 13.500

In addition to a wide range of ready-made garments, men's and children's at very reasonable prices.

Othman & Al Muhtaseb Trading Co.
Safat Souk - behind the Education Ministry - ground floor
Tel. 2445391/2436051

COOK (lady) required for a small family. Must be an expert in Kuwaiti cuisine. Good salary. Tele. Salem Saad, 2466141, 2451391, 5333672.

(AT3-42000-3)

NANNY (maid) required urgently, must have excellent experience with children, speak fluent English and have a transferable visa. Tele. 2455801, 8.30 am - 2 pm.

(AT4-42011-3)

SERVICES

Baby Sitting

AVAILABLE in Rumaithiya near Indian School. Tele. 5642233, after 2 pm.

(AT4-42025-3)

FOR RENT
Mistral Villa, 4 bedrooms with carpet and curtains, KD 850.
Savva Villa with swimming pool, KD 850, 4 bedrooms, KD 850.
Savva Villa, 5 bedrooms with swimming pool, KD 850.
Villa for ambassador, KD 1800 plus many villas and flats available in all areas in Kuwait.

Qatar Real Estate

Tel: 2408592, 2408593

FOR RENT
Villas, 1/2 villas, flats, apartments, stores, etc., in all areas of Kuwait.
Al-Montaluk Real Estate
Tel: 2418655
2426888

FOR RENT
SALWA AREA: New 2-storey villa, 5-bms with attached baths. Marble floors, superb finishing. Garden & garage, quiet location. Rent KD, 1000/- negotiable.
JABRIYA AREA: New split levels villa. 5-bms with attached baths. Garden, pool & garage. Rent KD, 1000/- P.M.
BAYAN AREA: Single storey 4-bm villa with large living/dining plus garden. KD, 700/- P.M.
SALWA AREA: 4-bm apartments with pool, health club, children's playground & parties hall KD, 550/-.

PLUS MANY MORE FLATS & VILLAS

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Tel 5744017-5744018

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Announces the arrival of a new variety of best types of garments:

- Romanian trousers — excellent KD 2.000
- Men's jeans trousers KD 2.000
- A wide variety of shirts from 750 to KD 2.500
- Variety of Safari suits KD 3.000
- Romanian suit KD 10.000
- German-made woolen suit KD 13.500

In addition to a wide range of ready-made garments, men's and children's at very reasonable prices.

Othman & Al Muhtaseb Trading Co.
Safat Souk - behind the Education Ministry - ground floor
Tel. 2445391/2436051

Tuition

HINDI, Urdu, Islamic studies, science and mathematics from nursery to 10th std preferably for girls, given by an experienced lady teacher, in Hassawi near Bangladesh School. Tele. Sunil, 9025770, 7.30 am to 2 pm.

(AT3-41992-3)

PRIVATE nursery classes, given by a well trained Montessori directress. Commencing 1st May in Al Muthanna Complex. Tele. 2428279 res.

(AT2-TM-3)

FOR RENT
Villas, half villas, buildings, and flats with or without swimming pool.
Al Azraq Real Estate
Tel. 2452199, 2452198

FOR RENT
Benel Al Qar and in Al Shaab area, near the sea; deluxe flats in new building. 2 bedrooms, one saloon, 2 bathrooms and a kitchen. Rent KD 275 with water and electricity.

Saad Al Dabbous Real Estate

Tel. 2418693/3, 2435571

9 am - 3 pm

Required Electrical Foreman
With a good knowledge of household electrical connections and M.E.W. regulations.
His call: 2614014, from 9 am - 1 pm, 8 - 11 pm.

WANTED
Master cutter and beaders with experience.
Tel. 3921310

Investments course
Once a week, 1-1/2 hour, on Mondays. Course for beginners on how to manage your personal investments, starting 25-04-88.
Computer course
for beginners, 3 times weekly, 20 hours course starting in May. Wordstar 4/Lotus 1 23/ Supercalc 4/Dbase III + Kuwait Cultural Center, Salwa
Tel. No. 5624393

WANTED
Master cutter and beaders with experience.
Tel. 3921310

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Tel. 3921310

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Master cutter and beaders with experience.
Tel. 3921310

PRIVATE nursery, admission available for 2-1/2 years and below in Salmiya. Tele. 5623635, (AT2-5623635-3)

MATHEMATICS, Physics and Chemistry, for all classes given by a well-experienced teacher (M.Sc) in Salmiya near Al Bahar Video. Tele. 5623618.

(AT2-41988-3)

For Rent
Villas & 1/2 villas fully furnished and unfurnished, in Hadiya, Ahmadi, Fahaheel and Fintas.
Terkait Real Estate Est.
Tel: 3913188, 3918884.
From 7 to 11.30 pm during Ramadan.

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SARAH

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Section heading

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URDU

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ایکستان کے مشہور اخبار انگلو کیل کی مکتوبی ٹول کی پیش کش پر پکڑی جانے والی ہانڈی

جسٹس کی ہانڈی کی پیش کش پر پکڑی جانے والی ہانڈی

اسلام و مہارت

قرآن و مہارت کی روشنی میں

احمد علی شاہ

مہارت کی روشنی میں اسلام

ملاؤ انسانی زندگی کا گریٹ چھوڑنا، خود پناہ

پاکستان کے سیاسی و ادبی حلقوں میں

پاکستان کے سیاسی و ادبی حلقوں میں

بیت کی شادی ملتی

کے بڑے میاں نے اپنی

پاس پنی کرالے

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برج جوا

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برج قوس

برج قوس (۲۲ جولائی تا ۲۳ اگست)

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SPORTS

STEIN SCORES TWICE FOR NEW CHAMPIONS

Luton edge past Arsenal for Cup

LONDON, April 25, (Reuters): Unfashionable Luton Town won the first major trophy in their 103-year history when they beat Arsenal 3-2 in the English League Cup soccer final yesterday.

In a dramatic and highly entertaining match, Luton took a one goal lead, fell 2-1 behind in the second half, but fought back to clinch the Cup with a last minute goal.

Former England striker Brian Stein opened the scoring after 13 minutes and also grabbed the decisive goal seconds from the finish to crown a tremendous personal performance.

Equalised

Arsenal, who only played in the manner of bidders and hot favourites for a 10 minute spell midway through the second period, equalised after 71 minutes through substitute Martin Hayes.

Three minutes later striker Alan Smith put them ahead for the first time and it seemed Luton's hopes would be ended when Arsenal were awarded a penalty in the 79th minute.

Luton's reserve goalkeeper Andy Dibble pulled off a brilliant save from Nigel Winterburn's spot kick, however, to revive his injury-hit team.

From then until the final whistle they took control with Northern Irish international midfielder Danny Wilson equalising in the



Danny Wilson scores an 82nd-minute equaliser for Luton. (Reuters wirephoto)

82nd minute to set up the dramatic finale when Stein volleyed the winner.

Luton's preparations for the final had been upset by several injuries, including the loss of stalwart midfielder Darren McDermott only 24 hours before the match. But they made light of these setbacks in the first half when they produced an incisive and controlled performance of

passing football.

England striker Mick Harford had already seen one header slide over the bar before he helped to put Luton ahead in the 13th minute.

A free kick by David Preece was only half cleared from Harford's challenge and Luton captain Steve Foster chipped an angled pass forward into space behind the Arsenal defence

which Brian Stein anticipated. Stein finished with the crisp and accurate low shot.

Arsenal laboured in midfield to regain control but could do little to prevent Luton from carving out several further opportunities early in the second half when winger Kingsley Black began to take the game by storm.

From a Black cross, Harford headed narrowly wide and then from a Harford cross, Stein forced a brilliant save from John Lukic.

But Luton were unable to score again in this spell and Harford limped off injured after 57 minutes to hand Arsenal the psychological advantage.

Luton substitute Mark Stein, younger brother of Brian, almost scored with his first real touch, but shot over the bar, and Arsenal responded with a period of convincing pressure.

They equalised when Foster failed to clear a free kick from Paul Davis and Hayes scrambled a loose ball into the net.

Three minutes afterwards, Smith ran onto a pass from midfielder Michael Thomas to put them ahead and leave Luton staring at what seemed an imminent defeat.

Smith twice hit the woodwork with headers before the penalty award which looked to have shut Luton out.

When Dibble saved the spot-kick Luton recovered their

spirits and drew level with eight minutes remaining. Arsenal defender Gus Caesar, playing in place of injured captain David O'Leary, was dispossessed by Mark Stein. Black crossed from the left, a Brian Stein shot was blocked but from the rebound he crossed again for Wilson to stoop and head in.

With only seconds remaining, Luton's second substitute, Ashley Grimes, made space on the right and crossed with his left foot for Brian Stein to volley the winner.

Dibble said of the vital penalty: "I made up my mind to go to the left and I guessed correctly. I hand't got it right the last couple of penalties but I'm over the moon."

Ray Harford, the Luton manager, added: "I thought it wasn't to be when they got the penalty. Winning our first major trophy means we're now a big club."

Teams:

Arsenal — John Lukic, Nigel Winterburn, Kenny Sansom, Michael Thomas, Gus Caesar, Tony Adams, David Rocastle, Paul Davis, Alan Smith, Perry Groves (Martin Hayes 60th min), Kevin Richardson.

Luton — Andy Dibble, Tim Breacker, Rob Johnson, Ricky Hill, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Danny Wilson, Brian Stein, Mick Harford (Mark Stein 63rd), David Preece (Ashley Grimes 77th), Kingsley Black.



Sanchez (right) is in flight as he dives to head the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Real clinch Spanish crown

MADRID, April 25, (Reuters): Real Madrid clinched their 23rd Spanish soccer championship and their third in succession yesterday with a 6-0 mauling of relegation-threatened Real Betis.

The easy victory before 80,000 delighted fans at their Bernabeu stadium leaves Real with an unassailable 11-point lead over second-placed Real Sociedad with four games to go in the First Division.

Dumped

And it will make amends for Real's disappointing goalless draw with Dutch side PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday which dumped the Spaniards out of the European Cup.

Real Sociedad, coached by Briton John Toshack, lost 1-0 at home to Murcia.

It was Murcia's first win over Real Sociedad in San Sebastian. Real Madrid's Ricardo Gallego, who dribbled past two players outside the penalty area and shot powerfully home off the left post in the 20th minute.

Manuel Sanchez scored the second five minutes later, and Rafael Gordillo added to the desperation of Real Betis' goalkeeper Salva Navarro with a powerful left-foot volley in the 36th.

Michel Gonzalez scored two more in the 41st and 68th minutes and helped Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez score his 28th goal of the season in the 55th minute.

But the victory was marred by a nasty collision between Miguel Tendillo and Miguel Chendo, who were among nine Real players named for Spain's European Championship warm-up match against Scotland on Wednesday.

Real doctor Jose "Pirri" Martinez said Chendo could miss the rest of the season while Tendillo looked doubtful for Wednesday.

Yugoslav Bogdan Korak snatched Murcia's winner nine minutes from time against Real Sociedad. But the win still leaves the Basques one point short of qualifying for next year's UEFA Cup.

Atletico Madrid kept alive their hopes of finishing in the top four and gaining a place in the UEFA Cup next season, drawing 1-1 away at Sevilla.

Atletico, third-placed behind Real Sociedad, remain equal on points with Athletic Bilbao, but ahead on goal difference.

Portuguese striker Paulo Futre set up the Atletico Madrid goal for Eusebio Sacristan to drive home in the 16th minute.

Cholo Ruiz squeezed the ball past two defenders and the goalkeeper with a nicely-angled shot to equalise for Sevilla 18 minutes later.

Striker

Barcelona put on the pressure too late and were held to a 1-1 draw away at Valladolid.

Valladolid striker Manuel Pena tricked international goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta off his line and lobbed in the first goal.

England striker Gary Lineker equalised for Barcelona with a penalty in the second half.

Groningen beat PSV in League game

AMSTERDAM, April 25, (Reuters): European Cup finalists PSV Eindhoven, already First Division champions and with an eye on tomorrow's Dutch Cup semifinal, left out several key players and lost 2-0 at FC Groningen yesterday.

With goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen, Wim Kieft, Dane Soren Lerby and Belgian Erik Gerets all missing, PSV looked sluggish and missed a number of chances early on.

Groningen had no problems in containing PSV's uninspired attacks and opened the scoring with a goal by Gerard Beltman just before half-time.

Brooke netted the second from the penalty spot after Jos Roois-sen was fouled by PSV's Patrick Lodewijks.

Reach

PSV, who knocked out Spain's Real Madrid last Wednesday to reach the European Cup final, met RKC for a place in the Dutch Cup final.

Ajax Amsterdam, who reached the final of the European Cup Winner's Cup last Wednesday, beat Feyenoord Rotterdam 3-1.

Ajax opened the scoring with a free kick from Arnold Muhren midway through the first half but Feyenoord's Andre Koekstra slammed home an equaliser within a minute.

Ajax took control in the second half with goals from Henrie Meijer and John Bosman.

Benfica lose as Porto widen gap

LISBON, April 25, (Reuters): European Cup finalists Benfica slumped to a 1-0 defeat at lowly Farense yesterday, allowing Porto to open a virtually unassailable eight-point gap at the top of the Portuguese First Division.

An 81st minute shot by Rui Barros from a penalty rebound gave Porto a 1-0 victory at Chaves and, with only seven matches remaining, they now look set to recapture the title.

Second-placed Benfica rested most of their regulars after their brilliant 2-0 win over Romania's Steaua Bucharest last Wednesday, a victory which took the Portuguese champions to their first European Cup final in 20 years.

Struggling to avoid relegation, Farense took quick advantage of Benfica's weakened defence with Ademir shooting home in the 14th minute after a goalmouth scramble.

Benfica staged a late rally but failed to score and will now concentrate all their efforts on winning the European cup, as their rivals Porto did last season.

Sporting Lisbon beat Setubal 2-0, to move into a distant third place, with a goal in each half from Paulinho Cascaavel and Lima. Setubal, lying sixth, still have a chance of a place in Europe.

World Cup tie

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, April 25, (Reuters): A World Cup qualifying soccer match between Trinidad/Tobago and Guyana was postponed yesterday — because the pitch was being used for an industrial exhibition.

AC Milan step up Italian title bid

ROME, April 25, (Reuters): AC Milan, spurred by Dutch international Ruud Gullit, stepped up their Italian Soccer League title bid with a 2-0 win against Internazionale, to move within a point of leaders Napoli yesterday.

While Diego Maradona's Napoli were held 1-1 at Verona, goals from Gullit and Antonio Virdis sealed Milan's supremacy in a classic derby watched by 80,000 fans in the San Siro stadium they share with Inter.

Excitement

Milan's victory put them closer on the heels of defending champions Napoli than ever before this season and rose the excitement level for the clash of the championship when the two teams meet in Naples next Sunday.

Napoli, who were four points clear of sole challengers Milan only three matches ago, now have 42 points to Milan's 41.

Roma, held 0-0 at Pescara, and Sampdoria, who drew 2-2 against Juventus, lie third and fourth respectively and are both an unbridgeable eight points behind the leaders with three matches left this season.

Milan, beaten in the League



Verona's Giuseppe Iachini (left) pulls Maradona's shirt in the first half. (Reuters wirephoto)

only twice this season, dominated their match against Internazionale from the opening whistle.

But it took Dutchman Gullit, Europe's Footballer of the Year, until one minute from the interval to open the scoring with a low, diagonal shot.

Virdis, recently back from a long injury lay-off, scored the second in the 53rd minute when a disastrous mix-up by Inter's Riccardo Ferri and Argentine Dan-

iel Passarella allowed him to slip through and shoot past keeper Walter Zenga.

Napoli had looked similarly dominant at Verona, where a rocket of a shot from Maradona put the champions 1-0 ahead in the 26th minute.

But Verona, 3-0 winners in the same clash last season, fought back in the second half and secured a deserved equaliser in the 66th minute when defender Roberto Galia headed home

from a corner.

Police said seven fans were treated before the match for knife wounds and six others detained for various offences.

Napoli, beaten 3-1 by Juventus last week, face tough contests against Milan, Fiorentina and Sampdoria before the season closes on May 15.

Yesterday, Juventus did well to salvage a draw after a penalty converted by Fulvio Bonomi and a shot by Italian international Gianluca Vialli left them 2-0 down to Sampdoria 40 minutes into the game.

Renato Buso pulled one back for Juventus in the 44th with Gaetano Scirea adding the Equaliser on the final whistle.

Vital

The one point lifted Juventus from seventh to sixth on 28 points, ahead of Inter, and was vital to their chances of a place in Europe next season.

Juventus, last absent from European club competition in 1962-63, must finish in the top six to qualify for the UEFA Cup, the only tournament still open to them after Torino knocked them out of the Italian Cup in mid-week.

Madrid race

MADRID, Spain, April 25, (AP): Juan Antonio Garcia of Spain won the Madrid marathon yesterday competing with more than 3,000 runners.

He covered the 42.125 kilometres in two hours, 14 minutes and 32 seconds, a record for the Madrid marathon. The previous record was set by his countryman Ramiro Matamoros in 2:17:04, in 1986.

Czaslana Nentlewiecz of Poland won the women's marathon in 2:37:19, setting a record. The previous record was set by Spain's Mercedes Calleja in 2:41:46, last year.

Cooper scores one-stroke victory

MADRID, April 25, (Reuters): Unheralded Briton Derrick Cooper pulled off his first major victory — the third player to do so in the new European season — when he took the Madrid Open golf championship by one stroke yesterday.

Cooper bled off the challenge of five Spaniards over the final round and also upstaged Severiano Ballesteros, who is still finding his consistently best form elusive.

The 32-year-old club professional from Warrington in the north of England had six birdies and an eagle in a final 68 for a 13-

under-par 275 total, securing his first win in 16 years as a pro and earning \$33,000 (\$62,040).

Cooper edged Spaniards Manuel Pinero, triple winner of the event who had a closing 71, and Miguel Martin (70) into joint second place on 276.

Further

Ballesteros, twice Madrid champion, shot 72 and finished fourth, two strokes further back. His £10,000 (\$18,800) prize took him to the top of the European money-winners list.

Cooper, who has twice finished fourth in major events, was lifted by an eagle three at the

15th, where he hit a five-iron to 12 feet, and a birdie three at the next.

Pinero and Martin came to the last needing a birdie four to force a playoff but each failed to get one.

Cooper said: "I felt if David Whelan and David Llewellyn could win the Barcelona and Biarritz Opens this year, why not me. I've been a bit too soft in the brain but I've been playing well and I used a new putter I picked in my shop as I left for Spain. It spurred me on, having all the people cheering for the Spaniards."

Committee to investigate Budd's eligibility to run for Britain

LONDON, April 25, (Reuters): British athletics' governing body delayed an immediate decision on South African-born runner Zola Budd yesterday, instead setting up a committee of inquiry to investigate her eligibility to run for Britain.

The British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) announced its action after meeting for two and a half hours to discuss the April 16 directive by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to ban the 21-year-old athlete for 12 months.

The IAAF called for the ban because of Budd's involvement in an athletics meeting in South Africa last year.

Decision

The BAAB said a three-member committee, under an independent chairman, would report back on May 21 after hearing evidence from Budd.

This date means the BAAB's decision must come after the one-month deadline set by the IAAF to take action.

Budd will be asked not to take part in competitions under international rules while the committee carries out its investigation.

The IAAF has said that if Budd is not banned it will consider suspending the BAAB, which would mean British athletes being barred from international competition, including the Seoul Olympics later this year.

A brief statement was read to a press conference by BAAB spok-



The committee set up by BAAB, from left to right: legal advisor Charles Woodhouse and members, Ewan Murray, Tony Ward and Mike Farrell. (Reuters wirephoto)

esman Tony Ward, who said that in setting up the committee of inquiry the board was not making a decision straightaway on Budd's eligibility.

The committee will have one member nominated by the English Women's Amateur Athletic Association, one by the Men's Amateur Athletic Association and an independent chairman.

"The inquiry will be carried out, properly and in accordance

with natural justice," Ward said. "Miss Budd and her advisers will be given an opportunity to appear before the committee and to give evidence."

The IAAF insisted yesterday that it had not lifted its threat to ban British athletes from international competition, including September's Seoul Olympics.

IAAF secretary John Holt said the IAAF stood by the directive it issued last weekend that

BAAB should impose a 12-month ban on Budd or risk being suspended itself.

"The matter will be considered under rule 11, which says that the IAAF has the power to caution, censure or suspend the British Board," Holt said from Lausanne.

Holt's comment plunged Britain's athletics crisis over Budd deeper into confusion after it took a mysterious new twist earlier in the day.

BAAB officials clearly thought the threat of a ban had been withdrawn when they met to consider the IAAF's ruling Budd.

BAAB officials learned during the week that the IAAF's original resolution had changed and a crucial paragraph which threatened suspension had been altered in the revised resolution.

"We have absolutely no idea when or why it was changed," said Tony Ward yesterday. "But it means the IAAF have lifted their threat of suspension of the board over this issue."

The IAAF are reported to have claimed that the original resolution was incorrect because of a clerical error.

Budd, two time world cross-country champion, has been dogged by controversy since arriving in Britain in March 1984 and being granted British citizenship within two weeks.

She was involved in a collision with American Mary Decker in the Olympic 3,000 metres final and met with more upset six months later when she was forced off the course by anti-apartheid demonstrators at the English Cross-country Championships.

Her failure to meet residential qualifications led to her being banned from competing at the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. She was also forced to withdraw from this year's World Cross-country Championships in New Zealand after pressure from the IAAF and

boycott threats from some African countries.

She is now alleged to have violated IAAF rules by attending races in Brakpan and Randfontein last year.

Meanwhile, Budd described herself as a "political pawn," as confusion deepened surrounding her athletics future.

Budd said she was "very disappointed," that she would not be able to compete for a month following her suspension by BAAB.

"I have been a political pawn," she said. "I want to clear my name as soon as possible and want the whole thing cleared up as quickly as possible."

Her coach John Bryant declared that he was encouraged by the day's developments.

"I don't think the world looks as black as it did this time last week," said Bryant.

Budd was also in a "much more positive frame, of mind than she was last weekend," he said.

He welcomed the BAAB's creation of the committee of inquiry to probe allegations she took part in athletics meetings in South Africa last year.

Schueler wins 50km race walk

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 25, (Reuters): Veteran Carl Schueler won a 50 km race walk yesterday by more than five minutes to earn a spot on the US Olympic team for the Summer Games in Seoul.

Taking the lead from the start, the 32-year-old national champion was clocked in three hours, 57 minutes and 48 seconds to qualify for the Olympics for the third time.

Quality

Marco Evoniuk, 30, the US record holder for 50 km, was second in 4:03:33 to also qualify for his third Olympics.

Newcomer Andy Kaestner made his first Olympic team with a personal record of 4:05:07.

Sixteen walkers in the record field of 22 went the distance.

Schueler, sixth in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, became the favourite after winning the 50 km nationals in February.

Reigning world champion and top seed Jansher Khan of Pakistan continued his smooth passage towards the final with a 9-6 9-3 9-7 win over England's Geoff Williams. He meets former world champion Ross Norman of New Zealand in the quarterfinals.

Second seed Chris Dittmar of Australia also eased through with victory over an Englishman. His victim was Del Harris, beaten 9-5 2-9 9-1 9-5.

But seventh seed Tristan Nancarrow, the volatile Australian, was the major casualty of the round when he crashed out 9-10 9-2 9-3 9-5 to rising compatriot Rodney Eyles.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

James leads

SHEFFIELD, England, April 25. (Reuters): Steve James, a 500-1 outsider at the start of the tournament, looked set to end the hopes of 1986 champion and last year's beaten finalist Joe Johnson in the World Snooker Championship yesterday when he extended his lead to 11-5 by the close.

Horse race

PARIS, April 25. (Reuters): In Extremis beat the hot favourite Drapeau Tricolore, who had been considered an Epsom Derby possibility, in winning the Group Three Prix de Guiche horse race at Longchamp yesterday.

Easy winner

ROME, April 25. (Reuters): Lonely Bird, ridden by the up and coming Luca Sorrentino, was an easy six length winner of the Premio Regina Elena (Italian 1,000 Guineas) at the Capannelle yesterday.

English pair

PAYERNE, Switzerland, April 25. (Reuters): English pair Kurt Nield and David Thorpe continued their flying start to the 500cc World Motocross Championship with victories in the Swiss Grand Prix yesterday.

Second victory

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida, April 25. (AP): Geoff Brabham and John Morio gave Nissan its second consecutive Camel GT victory yesterday by winning the three-hour Grand Prix of Palm Beach.

Marathon trials

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey, April 25. (AP): Mark Coover, competing in only his second marathon, scored a stunning victory in the US Olympic men's marathon trials yesterday and earned \$50,000 and a ticket to the Seoul Games.

Swiss runner

BERN, Switzerland, April 25. (AP): Swiss runner Sandra Gasser, who was banned from international track and field for two years and had a World Championship bronze medal taken away after a positive dope test, will go before a civil judge in London in her fight to be reinstated.

Rugby match

SYDNEY, Australia, April 25. (AP): New Zealand provincial side Auckland notched its third straight victory yesterday by thrashing Wellington 58-0 in the third round of the South Pacific Rugby Union championship, at Eden Park, Auckland.

Golf course

MOSCOW, April 25. (AP): Golf is joining baseball and bowling among the Western sports to reach the Soviet Union, where the first golf course is being built.

Pumori climbers

KATHMANDU, Nepal, April 25. (AP): An Indonesian expedition climbing Mount Pumori has established its camp two at an altitude of 6,500 metres (21,320 feet), according to a report received here today.

Three killed

DALLAS, April 25. (AP): Three people were killed and several others injured yesterday when a pickup truck carrying 11 people, including several members of a soccer team from Britain, overturned, police said. Killed in the 3:30 am (0830 GMT) accident were Sandra Ann Spiker, 22, of Richardson, Texas; Lee Donovan, 28, and Mark Jones, 21, both of Wales.

PAKISTAN LOSE QUICK WICKETS

Marshall puts W.Indies in control

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 25. (Agencies): Malcolm Marshall struck 48 and then took three wickets for only 26 runs as West Indies fought back to take control of the third and final Test yesterday.

Marshall first dismissed Rameez Raja with the score only six and then took the prize wicket of Javed Miandad and Aamir Malik as Pakistan slumped from 153 for three to 177 for six by the close of the third day's game.

Dismissed Marshall earlier influenced a significant tail-end flourish in which West Indies, 226 for eight overnight, added a further 80 runs in even time before they were dismissed for 306 — three behind on first innings.

Pakistan, who lead 1-0 in the series, had 30 minutes batting before lunch in which they scored 16 for one.

Marshall's main ally with the bat was fellow paceman Winston Benjamin, and the pair extended their ninth wicket stand to 58 with some exhilarating shots against Imran Khan and Wasim Akram who they took the second over ball.

Marshall greeted it with two



Marshall: three for 26

cover-driven fours in the first over from Wasim, and both batsmen scored so freely that 52 had been added off 6.4 overs with the new ball when Marshall was dismissed.

He tried to steer a wide delivery from Imran and edged

the ball to stand-in wicketkeeper Aamir Malik, deputising for Salim Yousuf, who fractured his nose when he was struck by a Marshall bouncer on Friday.

Marshall's 62-ball innings — he hit six fours and a six that was square-cut off Wasim — was fol-

lowed by further free hitting from Benjamin and Courtney Walsh until the former was run out for 31 trying to steal a second run. Imran ended with three for 108, lifting his tally for the series to 23 wickets, and Akram had three for 88.

After Pakistan lost Rameez early in the innings, Mudassar Nazar and Shoaib Mohammed repaired the damage by putting on 94 for the second wicket.

But shortly before tea, Mudassar was caught off a delivery from off-spinner Carl Hooper that bounced and took the shoulder of the bat to lob up to Gordon Greenidge at slip. Mudassar made 41, his highest of the series in which Pakistan lead 1-0.

But after the fall of Shoaib at 153, Pakistan seemed to wilt under pressure from the West Indian bowlers. Pakistan lost four wickets for only 16 runs, including three for only four runs, before Imran and Wasim prevented further damage before the close.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 309 (Rameez Raja 54, Shoaib Mohammed 54, M. Marshall four for 79)

West Indies first innings (overnight 226 for eight)
G. Greenidge lbw b Imran 10
D. Haynes c Aamir b Mudassar 48
R. Richardson c Aamir b Akram 54
C. Hooper b Akram 54
V. Richardson c Mudassar b Akram 67
J. Leggie c Miandad b Mudassar 0
J. Deon run out 0
M. Marshall c Aamir b Imran 48
C. Ambrose lbw b Imran 31
W. Benjamin run out 7
C. Walsh not out 14
Extras (b-5 lb-11 nb-8) 24
Total 306

Fall of wickets: 1-18 2-21 3-100 4-196 5-199 7-201 8-225 9-253
Bowling: Imran 25-3-108-3 (nb-5), Akram 27-1-88-3 (nb-2), Qadir 15-1-35-0 (nb-1), Jaffer 7-1-35-0, Mudassar 10-4-24-2.

PAKISTAN second innings
Mudassar Nazar c Greenidge b Hooper 41
Rameez Raja c Leggie b Marshall 4
Shoaib Mohammed c and b Richards 64
Javed Miandad c Deon b Marshall 34
Salim Malik lbw b Benjamin 9
Aamir Malik c Leggie b Marshall 2
Imran Khan not out 6
Wasim Akram not out 0
Extras (b-2 lb-8 nb-7) 17
Total (six wickets) 177
Fall of wickets: 1-6 2-100 3-153 4-165 5-167 6-169

Bowling to date: Marshall 12-2-26-3, Ambrose 14-3-49-0, Benjamin 8-0-27-1, Walsh 9-0-18-0, Hooper 10-1-39-1, Richards 7-3-8-1.

Boston cruise past Milwaukee

NEW YORK, April 25. (AP): When Roger Clemens is on the mound, the Milwaukee Brewers see nothing but trouble.

Clemens pitched a three-hitter and shut out Milwaukee for the third consecutive time as Boston won its fifth straight game, 4-0 at County stadium yesterday.

Clemens, 4-0, beat the Brewers 2-0 on April 14 at Boston and 4-0 on the last day of the 1987 season. Elsewhere in the AL it was Kansas City 3, Baltimore 1; Minnesota 13, Cleveland 7; Oakland 5, Chicago 3; Texas 4, Detroit 2; and Seattle 4, California 2.

The Red Sox scored two runs in the second off Teddy Higuera as sacrifice flies by Todd Benizger and Rick Cerone. Boston added two runs in the ninth on RBI-singles by Marty Barrett and Mike Greenwell.

The five strikeouts moved Clemens into a tie with Lefty Grove for 10th place on the all-time Red Sox career list with 73.

Royals 3, Orioles 1
Baltimore dropped to 0-18 and stumbled closer to the worst losing streak in baseball history as Kansas City's Bret Saberhagen pitched a six-hitter.

The Orioles' losing streak is the longest in the majors since the Detroit Tigers dropped 19 straight in 1975 and tied the fifth-longest in American League history. The Philadelphia Athletics

in 1920 and the Washington Senators in 1948 and '59 also lost 18 straight.

The modern Major League mark is 23, set by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1961, and the AL record is 20, done three times. The Orioles extended their record for season-opening defeats and their team mark for consecutive losses — not including five straight losses to end exhibition play.

Twins 13, Indians 7
Tim Lander, a career .218 hitter, had a pair of three-run homers as Minnesota cooled off Cleveland to snap a six-game losing streak. Lander is 13-for-37 (.351) so far in 1988.

The victory also broke a five-game losing streak at home for the Twins, the Major's winningest club at home in 1987 at 56-25. The loss snapped Cleveland's three-game winning streak and was only the Indians' second defeat in their last 10 games.

Athletics 5, White Sox 3
Jose Canseco hit a three-run homer and Oakland beat Chicago for its sixth victory in seven games.

Oakland scored four runs in the third off starter Rick Horton, 2-3. With two outs, Mike Gallego singled, moved to second on a walk and scored on Carney Lansford's single. Canseco followed with his Major

League-leading seventh homer, a shot into the upper deck in left field at Comiskey Park.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 3
Reliever Mark Eichenhorn threw a wild pitch to allow Rickey Henderson to score and break an eighth-inning tie as New York beat Toronto at Yankee stadium.

With the score 3-3, Henderson opposed the eighth with a single and Willie Randolph followed with a walk. One out later, on Eichenhorn's 1-2 pitch to Jack Clark, Henderson and Randolph attempted a double steal and Henderson scored when the pitch bounced away from catcher Ernie Whitt.

Padres 3, Astros 0
Andy Hawkins was an unlikely hero for the San Diego Padres.

Hawkins, who hadn't pitched a shutout in almost two years and entered the game with a 6.75 earned run average, pitched a one-hitter yesterday as the Padres beat the Houston Astros 3-0 and completed a sweep of their three-game series in San Diego.

Bill Doran spoiled the no-hitter with a lead off single in the seventh, but was quickly erased on a double play. Elsewhere in the National League, Pittsburgh beat Chicago 4-2, St. Louis edged New York 5-

4, Atlanta downed Cincinnati 4-1, Montreal beat Philadelphia 3-1 and Los Angeles blanked San Francisco 4-0.

The Padres took a 1-0 lead in the fifth on rookie Roberto Alomar's RBI-single off starter Jim Deshaies, 1-2. San Diego made it 3-0 in the eighth on an RBI-triple by Marvell Wynne and a run-scoring bunt single by Benito Santiago.

Pirates 4, Cubs 2
Darnell Coles hit a tie-breaking single and Rafael Belliard followed with a run-scoring triple in the fourth inning as streaking Pittsburgh completed a three-game sweep at Three Rivers stadium.

Boh Walk, 3-1, held the Cubs to two runs on six hits over 6-2-3 innings as the Pirates won for the 11th time in 13 games, including five of six against the Cubs. The Pirates, who are leading the NL East by two games, are 8-1 at home this season.

Cardinals 5, Mets 4
Willie McGee singled through a drawn-in infield to snap a tie in the seventh inning as St. Louis beat visiting New York for the first time in six games this season.

Boh Horner's sacrifice fly and Tom Bruocinsky's RBI-single capped a three-run rally that gave St. Louis a 5-2 lead in the seventh.

Mansdorf takes Connors to task

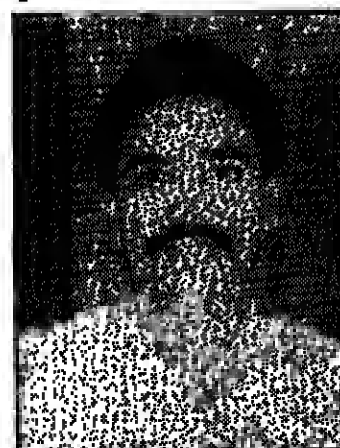
TULSA, Oklahoma, April 25. (AP): Amos Mansdorf took advantage of sloppy play by Jimmy Connors to defeat the American 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 yesterday in the finals of the Bank of Oklahoma Tennis Classic.

And in doubles finals, Robert Seguso and Scott Davis scored a 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 victory over Mansdorf and Van Rensburg. The winning doubles pair split \$5,000.

Played

Connors, four-time winner of the round-robin event, seemed to have the singles match well in hand when he broke Mansdorf in the third game of the second set for a 2-1 lead.

Paradise edge past Kheitan



Magsood: hit 51

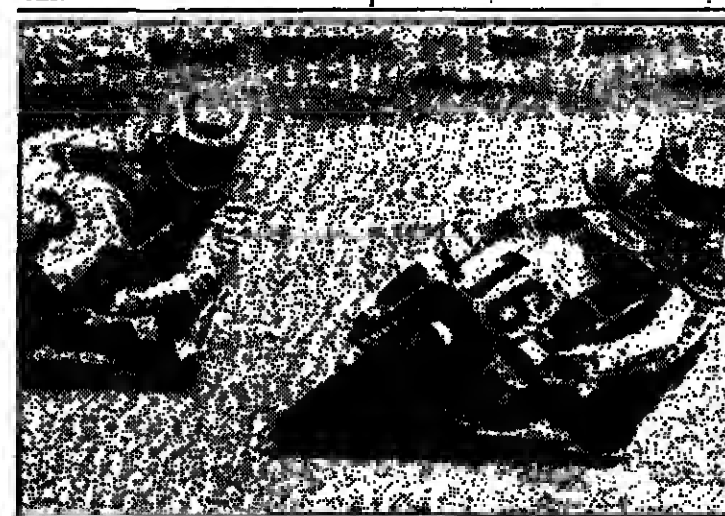
PARADISE Cricket Club scored a one-run victory over Kheitan Eleven in a Sabah knock-out cricket tournament match at the Safeway ground, over the weekend.

Paradise, batting first, scored 183 in their 25 allotted overs. Magsood was their top scorer with 51. Magsood hammered two sixes and four fours.

Valuable

The other batsmen to do well were Anwar, who slammed 39, and Jayed, with 18 valuable runs. Kheitan seemed to be cruising along to victory when they ran into some accurate bowling and just fell short of their target by one run. They managed to score 182 for the loss of six wickets.

Sohail took three wickets while Latif got two and Azim one.



Magoo (right) stays ahead of Lawson. (Reuters wirephoto)

Magee wins first GP

JARAMA, Spain, April 25. (Reuters): Kevin Magee of Australia won his first motorcycling Grand Prix yesterday, narrowly defeating former world champion Eddie Lawson to take the Spanish 500cc on a Yamaha.

Magee, 25, fought Lawson all the way to complete the 122.5 km race in 54 minutes, 52.476 seconds half a second ahead of Lawson, also on a Yamaha.

Led

Defending world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia finished in third place on a Honda. Lawson, 29-year-old American winner of the US Grand Prix in Monterey two weeks ago, led from the start but was overtaken in the 25th lap and then fought a close battle with Magee for the remaining 12 laps.

"It's just a great, I almost can't believe it," said Magee after the race.

"I was given some advice on how to start, it worked pretty well and I had to work from there," he said.

Magee had begun the race in pole position after impressive practice sessions.

Gooch plays Kent again with Sunday League 90

LONDON, April 25. (Reuters): Graham Gooch, who hit his highest score in first-class cricket of 275 for Essex against Kent on Saturday, tormented the same opponents in the Sunday League by hammering 90.

England opener Gooch made his runs from 87 deliveries and struck 10 fours, sweeping Essex to a nine-wicket victory at Chelmsford on the opening day of the 40 overs competition.

Gooch shared a first-wicket partnership of 145 in 29 overs with Brian Hardie, who hit an unbeaten 78, and Essex reached their target at 202 for one with 21 balls to spare. Kent had been restricted to 201 for eight largely by medium-pace Don Topley, who took three for 46.

Title holders Worcestershire went down by seven wickets at Old Trafford where Lancashire were thrust firmly towards success by Sri Lanka-born Gernan Mendis (43) and Graeme Fowler (43), who opened with a stand of 92 in 17 overs. Victory came at 176 for three with 22 balls left.

Worcestershire were given early momentum by a vigorous 39 from Ian Botham, in his Sunday role as an opener, but only former Lancashire all-rounder Steve O'Shaughnessy, with exactly 50 in 50 balls, sustained the tempo. Worcestershire made 172 for eight.

Hampshire's long-serving left-handed batsman David Turner made the first hundred of the 1988 competition, but his unbeaten 103 was not enough to overcome Surrey, who won by 22 runs at Southampton.

Former England opener David Smith hit 75 in 85 balls to help Surrey to 236 for nine but Turner, who made his county debut 20 years ago, stole the spotlight. He and South African Steve Jeffries put on 95 for the fifth wicket, but Hampshire ended on 214 for five.

At Hove, Sussex beat Somerset by five wickets. Somerset 191

Pistons outclass 76ers

PONTIAC, Michigan, April 25. (AP): Isiah Thomas had 25 points and 14 assists and Joe Dumars added 24 points, leading the Detroit Pistons to a 128-118 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Pistons, the Central Division champions, finished the regular season 54-28 and will play the Washington Bullets in the first round of the playoffs beginning Thursday night at the Pottac Silverdome. The 76ers, 36-46, failed to qualify for the playoffs for the first time in 13 years.

Rockets 127, Suns 119
Alkeem Olajuwon had 26 points and 18 rebounds and

Gooch: In terrific form

for six innings closed (R. Hardie 52, J. Hardy 45), Sussex 195 for five in 39 overs (P. Parker 90). Sussex four points.

At Bristol: Gloucestershire beat Glamorgan by five wickets. Glamorgan 176 for six innings closed (R. Shastri 84 not out). Gloucestershire 177 for five in 39 overs (W. Athey 67, A. Stoyold 41). Gloucestershire four points.

At Old Trafford: Lancashire beat Worcestershire by seven wickets. Worcestershire 172 for eight innings closed (S. O'Shaughnessy 50), Lancashire 176 for three in 36.2 overs (G. Fowler 43, G. Mendis 42, N. Fairbrother 40 not out). Lancashire four points.

At Lord's: Middlesex beat Nottinghamshire by four wickets. Nottinghamshire 165 for seven innings closed (T. Robinson 40, N. Williams three for 28). Middlesex 166 for six in 38.1 overs (P. Downton 49, J. Emburey 47). Middlesex four points.

At Derby: Derbyshire beat Leicestershire by nine wickets. Leicestershire 168 in 37.3 overs (N. Briers 42, A. Warner three for 21). Derbyshire 171 for one in 39.3 overs (K. Barnett 77 not out; B. Roberts 47 not out). Derbyshire four points.

At Chelmsford: Essex beat Kent by nine wickets. Kent 201 for eight innings closed (S. Hinks 55, C. Cowdrey 45). Essex 202 for one in 36.3 overs (G. Gooch 90, B. Hardie 78 not out). Essex four points.

At Southampton: (restricted to 39 overs-a-side) Surrey beat Hampshire by 22 runs. Surrey 236 for nine innings closed (D. Smith 75, A. Stewart 53). Hampshire 214 for five innings closed (D. Turner 103 not out, P. Terry 43). Surrey four points.

Evert brushes aside Navratilova

HOUSTON, April 25. (UPI): Chris Evert, leaving her vaunted rival in a state of exasperation, yesterday defeated Martina Navratilova 6-0, 6-4 to win the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of Houston.

Evert failed to hold her serve just once in winning this tournament for the third straight time.

"I was psyched up for this match," said Evert, the No. 2 seed behind Navratilova. "Martina was pressing. She had too many errors. I don't know if she was nervous or just off. I think she's had a tough three weeks, and I got her at a vulnerable time. I got a thrill out of beating Martina, a thrill out of respect, out ego or pride. I think she's a

great player."

Navratilova, who lost to Evert 6-2, 7-5 in the semifinals of the Australian Open this year, double-faulted six times, including the final point of the match. She committed 47 unforced errors.

Navratilova, ranked second in the world behind Steffi Graf, still holds a 40-37 head-to-head edge over Evert since 1973.

Laugh

"I'm still trying to figure out what happened," Navratilova said. "I don't know whether to laugh or cry... it was so pitiful."

"There's no reason, I should lose to her. She's a great player, but I'm better. She can't hurt me. But I double-faulted all over the place and had too many unforced

errors. It was pathetic, just pathetic."

Evert, of Boca Raton, Florida, and ranked No. 3 in the world, won \$50,000. Navratilova of Fort Worth, Texas, won \$22,500. Sunday's championship was a rematch of last year's final won by Evert 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4). Evert also won the 1986 championship against Kathy Riordan.

In yesterday's doubles championship, Katrina Adams and Zina Garrison defeated Navratilova and Lori McNeil 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 6-4.

"I thought it was Chris, but I couldn't get going in doubles either," Navratilova said. "I was pushing the ball instead of hitting through. I'm very disappointed and disgusted to myself."

Lendl outlasts Jaite for Monte Carlo title

MONTE CARLO, April 25. (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl, playing his first tournament in two months, woo the Monte Carlo Open title when he defeated seventh seed Mario Jaite of Argentina 5-7 6-4 7-5 6-3 yesterday.

Lendl, sidelined since the end of February by a stress fracture in his right foot, had considerable difficulty overcoming his 23-year-old opponent in a match which lasted 3-3/4 hours.

Strong

The Czechoslovak top seed made several mistakes during the match but finally proved too strong for Jaite and clinched the title for the second time, having won it the last time he played in the tournament in 1985.

Lendl broke Jaite's service in the opening game, but failed to capitalise on his advantage, staying back to battle it out from the baseline.

Jaite, growing more adventurous, broke back in the sixth game and had a chance to take the first set at 5-4 but hit his service return too long.



Lendl holds up his trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

The Argentine, however, made no mistake when he earned his second set-point, hitting an awkward backhand which Lendl could not return.

Lendl gained an immediate break at the start of the second

set as the first three games went against service, and appeared to be well on his way at 5-2 after breaking Jaite again.

But despite saving five break-points, Lendl failed to hold his service in the following game,

and had to wait to the tenth game before squaring the match at one set all.

Jaite went 3-1 up in the third set when Lendl, in some disarray, double-faulted for the third time in the match.

But the Czech, visibly irritated by his mistakes, recovered quickly and reeled off four games in a row to lead 5-3, hitting two aces in the eighth game.

Jaite pulled back to 5-5 but dropped his service in the next game. Lendl squandered three set-points at 6-5, one with another double-fault, but saved off two break-points to clinch the set with an overhead smash.

Lendl closed in for the title when he broke Jaite in the fifth game of the fourth set.

He earned two match-points in the ninth, and although Jaite saved the first, he lost the match on the second when Lendl beat him with a forehand cross-court pass.

Lendl said afterwards: "I had so many chances and I didn't do anything with them. I should have won the first set

relatively easily. I should have won the second set about 6-2. I should have won the third set about 6-2. The fourth set was the only one in which, if someone got a chance, he took advantage of it."

Lendl added: "I was really annoyed with myself at first. Then after the second set I saw that he was getting really tired and I realised the higher I hit the ball the better it is for me. He made more errors, so that's what I tried to do."

Jaite, beaten by Lendl in their two previous encounters in 1985, disagreed with Lendl's assessment of his condition.

"I was not tired, I was tired when I arrived in the locker room and sat in my seat after the match. Maybe at the end of the match I was tired," he said.

Jaite said the third set had been very important. "At 3-1 I wasn't able to take advantage of the situation, then in the fourth set it was very difficult."

"He played well but he made mistakes — a lot of mistakes in the first set."